[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

Thus then, by an adjournment of the House, the motion under discussion lapses, though it may be revived by a fresh notice in accordance with the Standing Orders. Though by the postponement of the debate a motion under discussion may not always lapse, it will, so far as the present Session is concerned, lapse.

We have now to begin the general discussion of the budget.

The other day I suggested a time-limit of 15 minutes at the general discussion stage to enable as large a number of members as possible including the official members to speak within the two days allotted to such discussion. Members will see that under Rule 48 the maximum limit of time allowable to them is 20 minutes; and if any individual member insists on speaking for this length of time, I must allow it to him. As a matter of general convenience, however, it would be well for each member to impose on himself the self-denying ordinance I have suggested, and I leave the adoption of this suggestion to the pleasure of the members.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, to-day—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, before passing on to the business of the day, I have to submit one or two points for your kind orders. They relate to—

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I must rise to a point of order. He cannot address the House now.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Aiyangar is already in possession of the House.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Any member can at any time submit a point of order for the decision of the President, but in doing so he should confine himself to stating the point.

PRESIDENT: But you are not in possession of the House.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Is it on the subject of the budget, Sir, that he wants to submit a point of order?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I submit that I can stand up *at any time* for submitting a point of order.

PRESIDENT: But not so as to interrupt a member; nor can you submit a point not relevant to his speech.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I invite your kind attention to page 20 of the Manual, Standing Order No. 26, in which it will be found stated that "a motion that any meeting or business be adjourned or postponed or that the Council pass to the business next in order" etc., "may be moved at any time and without previous notice.....but not

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

so as to interrupt a speech". But, in Rule 26 of the Legislative Council Rules, that provision has been omitted, and I submit, *deliberately*, because even in the course of a speech one may be compelled to raise a point of order for the orders of the President. It is under this Rule that I wish to submit a point of order.

PRESIDENT: What is your point?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: That relates to the manuscripts of speeches made by the members and brought to the Council. We received a letter dated the 15th July, 1922, from the Secretary to the Legislative Council, stating that, "as it is desirable that the official report of the proceedings of the Legislative Council should attain as high a standard of accuracy and be issued as quickly as possible, it is requested that members who deliver written speeches will pass the manuscripts thereof to the Secretary to the Legislative Council before the close of the day's proceedings".

The other day I myself was speaking out of a manuscript. But I did not know how to pass it on to the Secretary. I would have shown it to him, but the letter stated that it should be "passed" to him before the close of the day's proceedings. The manuscript is still with me and I shall be sorry if it does not appear in the Proceedings. The only way that suggested itself to me was to trouble my neighbour to pass the manuscript to the Secretary, which I thought was rather not quite proper. So I do not know what is the best manner.

PRESIDENT: The meaning to be put on that expression is that as soon as the business of the day is over, you should pass it on to the Secretary.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, are we to take it to the Secretary?

PRESIDENT: As you leave the House you may leave it with the Secretary.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Another point that I would submit is with reference to clause (*c*) of the circular. It states that "members will return within 24 hours or sooner, if practicable, the transcripts of speeches sent to them for correction". No such transcript has been received, though I waited here the other day after the closing of the Council. I had to wait here for receiving the transcript.

PRESIDENT: It does not say that the transcript would be delivered to you at once. What is mentioned is that you should return it within 24 hours of *your* receiving it or sooner, if convenient.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: If the transcripts of the speeches of members who do not reside in Trivandrum are given to them for perfection while they are here, they will not be put to the necessity of stopping here during the recess

PRESIDENT: Transcripts will be sent to the members for correction as early as practicable, and in no case is it necessary that they should stay here for this purpose during the days on which the Council does not sit.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, to-day we are entering upon the first stage of the discussion of the budget for the coming year. The second stage will afford an opportunity to the members to examine in detail the various items of expenditure covered by the budget. I should not, therefore, take up the time of the House now in discussing the details of expenditure. At the outset, let me congratulate the country and the Government on the circumstance that it has been possible to frame the budget for the coming year so as to avoid the necessity for fresh taxation.

I believe, Sir, that, as regards Land Revenue, Excise, Stamps and Registration, we have reached bed-rock limits. Further taxation under these heads is to be deprecated. To meet the growing requirements of the Development Departments, we have to rely largely on an expansion of revenue under the heads of customs receipts and taxes on incomes. The value of the foreign trade of Travancore for 1096 in rupees is 11·40 crores, made up of 6·64 crores of exports and 4·76 crores of imports. The bulk of our trade is with British India. The value of our trade with other countries is about Rs. 18 lakhs of exports and Rs. 12 lakhs of imports. For purposes of my argument, these figures may be left out of account. The receipts under Customs for 1096 amount to Rs. 20·91 lakhs. Under imports alone, the receipts cover only Rs. 1·48 lakhs. I submit that it is a poor return for a total import trade of the value of Rs. 4·76 crores. The main cause for this low receipt is to be found in the Interportal Trade Convention with the British Government under which the Travancore Government gave up its right to levy duty generally on goods on which duty has been levied in British India. The obligation was, no doubt, reciprocal; but the balance of disadvantage was on the side of Travancore. To compensate for this loss, the British Government undertook to pay Travancore every year a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,000 I am not prepared to say that the interests of Travancore were not properly safeguarded at the time of this Convention. Raja Sir T. Madhava Rao was then the Dewan of the State, and I presume, Sir, that the amount of compensation was fixed with reference to the volume of trade during the days of the Convention. My submission is that, during the half a century that has followed since the Convention, the volume of our external trade has increased enormously and a strong case can be made out for a revision of the terms of this Convention. The limit of a maximum of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* duty imposed by the Convention

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

also requires revision in the light of the modern conditions of our trade. I believe, Sir, that an equitable revision of the terms of this Trade Convention is bound to bring in a substantial contribution to the State.

As bearing on this question, though not intimately connected with it, may I ask, Sir, why the provision in the current year's budget of Rs. 1,69,643 as contribution to the Cochin Harbour Scheme is said to have lapsed and why no provision is made for this purpose in the budget for the coming year? I am aware, Sir, that a section of the people in Travancore do not approve of Travancore contributing to the construction of the Cochin Harbour. I am equally aware that a larger section in the Cochin State do not approve of Travancore being allowed to come in as a partner. The one thinks of the present expenditure, the other of the prospective profit out of the scheme. Has there been any change of policy? If the question is still in a stage of confidential discussion and negotiation, I shall not press for an answer. I would only add that the development of the Cochin Harbour cannot be regarded as the sole concern of the Cochin State. The scheme, when carried out, will greatly stimulate the external trade of Travancore.

Passing on from these general considerations to the budget before the House, I must say that it is neither a budget of prosperity nor a budget of despair. It is a "carrying on" budget, to adopt the suggestive language of the Finance Member of the Madras Government. Excluding the capital expenditure on railways, the receipts and the expenditure are just balanced. The estimates anticipate, for 1098, an increase of Rs. 2·04 lakhs under Land Revenue, ·62 lakh under Stamps, ·23 lakh under Registration, ·54 lakh under Irrigation and 2·56 lakhs under Railways. I sincerely wish that these expectations may be realised in the coming year. Are we not oversanguine, Sir, in our expectations? We have now to assume that the present slump in trade will disappear, that exchange will continue to be stable, that the general economic conditions will improve, and that, in the wake of a commercial and industrial revival, the buying capacity of the people will increase. Here we are speculating on the probable effects of the operations of uncertain world factors. We budgeted for a surplus for the current year. We are faced with a deficit. I recognise that the budget has been prepared with very great care, but there is the uncertainty that I pointed out before. I would suggest that the heads of expenditure be carefully revised. I believe that there is scope for effecting a retrenchment in non-essential directions, as otherwise there is the possibility of our having to face a deficit this time next year.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, Mr. George at the very outset of his speech refers to his belief that there is a general impression that expenditure in the State has been growing in recent years out of all proportion to its revenues and he adds that the fear is often expressed that we are drifting, consciously or unconsciously, into bankruptcy. This is ominous. I may tell him that his belief is not unfounded and that this impression has been latterly gaining ground in the minds of several of us on this side of the House. His review of the finances of the last ten years has only tended

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

to transform what was not much more than a vague impression into a sad conviction. Endowed with boundless optimism, Mr. George assures the House that there is nothing seriously grave or alarming in our present financial position, but at the same time he urges upon us the clear necessity to exercise strict economy in expenditure and effect all reasonable retrenchments and improve our revenue resources. It would appear that the Financial Secretary, though he has succeeded in the financial gymnastics of balancing the budget, has a lurking suspicion that all is not well.

One looks in vain throughout the pages of the budget for any indication that he has begun to act in accordance with his principles. He merely assures us that he has been able to convert what should have been a deficit budget for 1098 into a budget without a deficit. The figures when scrutinised reveal a different situation. Budgeting has become a fine art and the unwary layman may be easily deluded into the belief created by an artificially balanced budget.

The anticipated surplus for 1098 is the magnificent figure of Rs.6,500 out of a total revenue of Rs. 194 lakhs; and this surplus has been estimated to be attained by not providing any reserve worth mentioning for meeting unforeseen expenses. Mr. George claims credit for succeeding in making both ends meet and states that it has been achieved by relentless retrenchment and avoidance of all waste and also by postponing the payment of a part of the claims of our stationery suppliers. Retrenchment there has been, but it consisted in the reduction of peons and clerks, and it can hardly be termed relentless. If efficiency consists in the attainment of maximum results by the expenditure of a minimum of time, labour and cost, instances of phenomenal waste in the machinery of Government abound. Even the Government would hardly claim that they are running it on business lines. The expenditure is proposed to be kept within the budgeted revenue by postponing payment of the legitimate dues of the stationery suppliers and by cutting down a large proportion of the rightful share of the P. W. D. and of other departments which ought to have been utilised for the development of the material prosperity of the people.

It is, indeed, very unfortunate that Messrs. Dickinson & Co.—not the electrical engineers—have been a disturbing factor in the settlement of the financial statements of Travancore from year to year and it is gratifying to find that their not pressing for the immediate payment of their dues has been the salvation of the Financial Secretary. From 1095 we have been told that the stationery accounts were not as they should be. When presenting the budget for 1096, no mention was made of the arrears due to the contractor, but provision was actually made for Rs. 1 lakh less than the revised estimate for 1095, the explanation given being that the grant had been reduced. The provision for 1096 was only Rs. 2,05,800. In the absence of information to the effect, subsequently disclosed, that for years together we have been keeping a running account with them and accumulating payments, it was thought that the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

reduction in the allotment was a measure of retrenchment. When, however, the budget for 1097 was presented, Mr. George confessed that he had to spend in 1096 Rs. 2 lakhs in excess of the budget allotment with a view to pay off as far as possible the large arrears due to the contractor and that adequate provision had not been made to pay them off during any year in full. Purchases are being made apparently without any reference to the budgeted amount or to our requirements, and the stationery accounts are not being properly scrutinised and audited.

The Council was told that, by providing Rs. 5 lakhs for expenditure in 1097, the accounts of the contractor would be made current before the close of the year. As usual, rigorous measures were reported to be taken for reducing expenditure under stationery. While a surplus of Rs. 3½ lakhs was budgeted for 1097 in the revised estimates, this dwindles down to the glorious figure of Rs. 4,400 which may or may not be attained. The magic wand of Mr. George has screened from us for the moment the apparition of the stationery contractor and his overdue bills. Rs. 3 lakhs are provided for 1098 which will be enough to pay off only a portion of the balance payable for purchases made till the end of 1097. No provision is to be made in the budget for 1098 for the cost of articles required for the year, so that for 1099 this House will have to vote about Rs. 8 or 9 lakhs for stationery alone, if we are to be current at the end of the year and if the expenditure in the department has been developing as it has done in the past. I do not rely upon the estimate that the supply for 1098 will cost only Rs. 1¾ lakhs, for orders are placed with contractors without reference, as I said before, to the budget allotments. The methods obtaining in the Stationery Department also appear to me eminently unbusinesslike inasmuch as, during the past years when prices were admittedly very high, stocks of superfluous articles were purchased for expenditure during years with prevailing low prices. Neither from the budget nor from the explanatory memorandum is it clear what exactly is the value of the stationery purchased in each year and what proportion of the value has been paid in each year. I am astonished to find that the Financial Secretary to the Travancore Government has come forward with a budget in which he estimates a surplus by withholding payments to stationery contractors. Next year he may perhaps improve upon this and further extend the principle and create surpluses by withholding for future payment, say, the salaries of himself and two or three other officers who may be called to his rescue and help in presenting a balanced budget. I should also like to be enlightened as to whether the postponement of the settlement of the claims does not involve the payment of interest.

In regard to *retrenchment*, as I said already, there has been some retrenchment, but it has begun at the wrong end and ended there. The pruning knife has been applied ruthlessly, but in parts vitally affecting the interests and well-being of the pepole. The P. W. D. allotment has been cut down by Rs. 5 lakhs and it is at the same time urged that fair provision for maintenance and improvements has been made. The unceasing complaint from the representatives of the people here and in the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Assembly has throughout been that a disproportionately large amount was being spent on the salaries of the controlling staff and establishment and that a much larger percentage should be devoted to communications and miscellaneous public improvements. In applying the cut of Rs. 5 lakhs the following results have ensued. Under salaries, establishment, etc., the reduction has been Rs. 18,000 or barely 4 per cent. of the total reduction. On the other hand, the reduction under original communications amounts to 28·5 per cent. and that under original miscellaneous public improvements to 29·5 per cent. when compared with figure for 1097, and 65 per cent. when compared with the figure for 1096.

	1098.	*1097.*	*1096.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Communications, original	6,75,915	8,75,000	7,17,390
Miscellaneous public improvements, ...	25,010	70,000	1,71,977

A comparison of the figures for the three years 1096, 1097 and 1098 reveals the fact that, whereas the establishment charges amounted only to 15 per cent. of the total expenditure under public works proper in 1096 and 1097, the percentage rises to 17·5 per cent. in 1098 as a result of the relentless retrenchment alluded to. One direct result of the retrenchment has been that, while in 1097, 30 per cent. of the total expenditure was on communications (original works), it has now gone down to 26 per cent. Again, the expenditure under miscellaneous public improvements, which stood at 6 per cent. of the total in 1096 and 2·5 per cent. in 1097, has gone down to 1 per cent. in 1098. One general statement has to be made in regard to the controlling staff of the P. W. D. Whatever might be the correctness of the ratio fixed in pre-war years between the cost of supervision and the outlay on works, it cannot be gainsaid that that basis has become obsolete and unreliable with the rise in wages and in the price of materials. The quantity of work for the same outlay of money would now be much less and there should at least be a corresponding reduction in the cost of the supervising staff. It has also to be remembered that, apart from the staff detailed in the budget, there is included in the estimate for each work a certain percentage varying between 5 and 10 under petty supervision. The increased facilities for locomotion would render it possible in this as well as other departments to considerably reduce the number of officers in the higher grades.

Apparently, Mr. George sees nothing seriously grave or alarming in *our present financial position*. I confess my inability to share in his optimism. There is indeed no indication in the budget of any move on the part of the Government to impose new or additional taxes in 1098. This is gratifying. The continuance of the present policy—rather the absence of any known or definite policy correlating the growth of public expenditure with the normal rise in the ordinary revenues—will necessarily land us before long in a financial crisis. Our financial equilibrium is so unstable that some pressure from the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

stationery contractors would upset the entire calculations of the Finance Department and make 1098 a year of deficit.

In 1087, our receipts amounted to Rs. 138 lakhs and expenditure to Rs. 135 lakhs, leaving a revenue surplus of Rs. 3 lakhs. By 1089, the revenue rose by Rs. 17 lakhs and the expenditure by Rs. 14 lakhs. From 1091 to 1094 there has been an average increase per annum of Rs. 7½ lakhs in revenue and Rs. 3¾ lakhs in expenditure. The period subsequent to 1095 tells a different tale. In 1095, while the expenditure rose by Rs. 16 lakhs there was only a compensating rise of Rs. 3½ lakhs in revenue. In 1096, again, with an increased revenue of Rs. 9 lakhs, an additional expenditure of Rs. 19 lakhs was incurred. The year 1096 ended in a deficit of Rs. 1½ lakhs. The deficit would have been really greater but for that friend of the Travancore finances, the stationery contractor.

The decennium chosen by the Financial Secretary for lulling us into a false sense of security is not one of normal or continuous growth in revenue and expenditure. During the first seven years the rise in revenue and in expenditure has been gradual. But during the last three years the increase in the ordinary revenue has not been keeping pace with the growth of expenditure. The normal expenditure of 1094 rose by Rs. 8 lakhs from that of the previous year, but the corresponding revenue surplus was Rs. 20 lakhs. During 1095 and 1096 there was an increase of more than Rs. 35 lakhs in the normal expenditure of the State. The budget for 1098 provides for an increase of Rs. 17 lakhs under expenditure and of Rs. 9 lakhs under revenue over the figures of 1095. The greater part of this additional expenditure is of a recurring nature and of an unproductive character. The increase is phenomenal under "Salaries, Establishment and Allowances," which was Rs. 53 lakhs in 1093, Rs. 58 lakhs in 1094, Rs. 62 lakhs in 1095, Rs. 66 lakhs in 1096, Rs. 70 lakhs in 1097 and is Rs. 76 lakhs for 1098. These are approximate figures. While the revenue has increased from Rs. 185 lakhs in 1095 to Rs. 194 lakhs in 1098, *i. e.*, by Rs. 9 lakhs, the expenditure under "Salaries and Establishments" alone has gone up from Rs. 62 lakhs to Rs. 76 lakhs or by Rs. 14 lakhs. Again, while the growth in the revenue in these years has been unsteady, the recurring liabilities of the Government have been progressively added to. Still more significant is the fact that a large proportion in the increase in the revenue is such as cannot be deemed to be of a stable nature. The Financial Secretary glibly attributes the increase in the revenues to the normal development of our resources and the increasing prosperity and buying power of the people. Incidentally I may observe that Mr. George does not seem to know his own mind in the matter. For, under Customs he anticipates an increase of Rs. 3½ lakhs in the current year, that being almost entirely under export duty and indicating in his own words an "expansion in the export of our local produce", while in the next paragraph he contradicts himself and ascribes the fall of revenue under sale of Government lands and under Excise and Registration, to the present trade depression and the prevailing great scarcity of money. I should add that the causes for the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

decline in the *puduval* revenue have to be sought elsewhere, *i. e.*, in the revised Puduval Rules, the high rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila*, and the fact that much, if not all, of the good land has already been taken up.

The largest increase under revenue is, according to Mr. George, under Excise, followed by Customs, Salt, Stamps, Education, Land Revenue, Registration and Forest. One common misapprehension about the sources of excise revenue has to be removed; for, the revenue under Excise is made up of the duty on tobacco, abkari and opium and ganja in this budget and Customs fall under a separate head.

The following table compares the growth in revenue in these departments from 1094 to 1098:

	1094 Rs. (in lakhs)	1095 Rs. (in lakhs)	1096 Rs. (in lakhs)	1097 Rs. (in lakhs)	1098 Rs. (in lakhs)
Abkari, Opium & Ganja...	21	21·5	29	26	22
Tobacco ...	15	15·5	17	185	18·5
Salt ...	17·75	16	16·75	17	17
Customs ...	18	18·75	20·91	24·33	23·46
Stamps ...	23·5	24·75	23·20	23·32	23·94
Education ...	5·76	5·75	5·88	6·50	7
Land Revenue { Ayacut	31·5	31·85	32	32	...
Land Revenue { Ayacut & other items	38·21	39·85	38·18	36·93	36·67
Registration ...	6·32	7·60	7·03	6·78	7·02
Forest ...	16·68	13·60	12·29	14·80	15

Mr. George has been relying on these unstable items of revenue to increase recurring expenditure. Some of the items are not only unstable but, as in the case of the abkari revenue, have to be left out of account to a large extent. In forest revenue there has been a perceptible decline. The defence that the growth in expenditure has kept pace with the normal growth in revenue is untenable; for it is the increased earnings from these uncertain resources that have been depended upon to meet the increased expenditure. It is not known what percentage of the ordinary reliable and recurring revenue this enhanced expenditure of a permanent nature forms. My contention is that the liabilities of Government have been increased without adequate regard to the fixed revenue demand. Nearly 39 per cent. of the total estimated revenue (recurring and non-recurring) is consumed by salaries and establishments alone. Obviously we are being overgoverned. In this connection, I would urge the desirability of reclassifying the budget heads

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

with a view to separate the stable and unstable sources of revenue. For instance, it is bad finance to sanction increases in salaries in the hope of realising enhanced *puduval* revenue or of increased drunkenness. Windfalls and fluctuating items of revenue should be utilised for non-recurring expenditure.

Much of the increase in expenditure is due to the creation of new high-paid appointments and to a disproportionate I would even say, reckless—increase of salaries in certain departments. As this House may not be competent to enter into those questions at this stage, I need not deal with them elaborately now. I am more anxious than anybody else that the pay of the lower subordinates should be substantially increased and consider that the niggardly doles which have now been given to them are inadequate. The elementary school teacher and the proverthicar and the accountant in the Land Revenue Department, for instance, deserve much more than what they have been given. The number of officers of the higher grades is capable of material reduction. The term 'efficiency' covers a multitude of waste and it is perhaps in the name of that efficiency that the higher ranks of the service are being maintained as they now are. I should assure Mr. George that this side of the House feels that efficiency is being maintained, if at all, at too prohibitive a cost.

The problem with all Governments is how to balance the budget. In our insularity lies a certain measure of safety. We are not confronted with those problems of exchange and currency or provincial contributions or enormous military expenditure which form the disturbing factors elsewhere. We are, I am afraid, at the beginning of an era of deficits; and I admire the caution of the Financial Secretary who would not be rash to expect any sudden or large increases in our normal resources. While our existing resources admittedly do not admit of any considerable elasticity, our expenditure is bound to increase particularly with the time-scales granted to all officers in the recent revision of salaries. The claim that has been made on behalf of the Government that the object of the revision has been to remove glaring inequalities cannot be conceded. If at all, the effect has been to widen the already existing disparities in the salaries of high-paid officers.

The financial situation requires careful looking into. According to you, Sir, the problem of finance is already one of exceeding difficulty and complication, but the hope that this situation will be tackled with the help of expert advice has not been fulfilled. I hope to invite the attention of the House to this important matter at an early date.

Only next in importance to an examination of our financial position is the necessity for having a Standing Committee on Public Accounts, so as to enable this House to closely keep in touch with the financial transactions of the Government. Such a Committee is a direct corollary of the vesting of powers in regard to the budget in this House and it obtains elsewhere. Without such a Committee, this House will have only the semblance of any control over the finances and not the substance of it.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, while appreciating the extra trouble and difficulty which the Financial Secretary must have been put to in the framing of the present budget estimate, one cannot fail to recognise the extreme frankness with which he has placed before the Council all his fears and forebodings regarding the financial outlook of our State. He has made it pretty clear that our future is gloomy indeed. Out of the total assets of Rs. 269 lakhs, the Kodayar Irrigation Works and the Quilon—Trivandrum Railway together represent Rs. 134 lakhs, while the cash balance in the treasuries amounts only to Rs. 37 lakhs. On the other hand, out of the total liability of Rs. 214 lakhs, Rs. 77 lakhs represent deposits and funds, while Rs. 14 lakhs represent the State Debenture Loan. In other words, while the current debt is Rs. 91 lakhs, the cash in hand is only Rs. 37 lakhs. The normal surplus expected this year is only Rs. 4,400 and in the next year Rs. 6,500. A careful reading of the speech gives ample room for the belief that this year as well as the next are likely "to close with a deficit on the wrong side." This year the Financial Secretary expected a surplus of Rs. 3½ lakhs which, he admits, "has been more or less completely wiped out." The anticipation of a surplus of Rs. 4,400 is based entirely upon the assumption that almost the whole of our budgeted revenue under Forest will be realised, the revised estimate under Forest having been estimated at Rs. 14¾ lakhs. We are not enabled to ascertain what the exact amount realised under Forest till the end of Medam 1097 is. But considering the fact that forest revenue fell from Rs. 7,09,519 in 1095 to Rs. 3,56,260 in 1096, being Rs. 3 lakhs less than the budgeted revenue for the year, and considering the fact that market conditions have not appreciably altered this year, we may fairly conclude that the whole revenue under this head is not likely to be realised. The Financial Secretary's pointed reference to forest revenue, I believe, is meant to prepare us for such a contingency.

The budget estimate for 1098 is no doubt based on the revised estimate for 1097. I shall briefly examine the two and try to show whether we could entertain any reasonable hope of sharing in the Financial Secretary's opinion that the coming year will bring us a surplus, without providential interference. Under the revised estimate, the only item of revenue which shows any substantial improvement is Customs. The income under this head is put down at Rs. 1 lakh less for 1098. The Financial Secretary admits that there has been a deterioration under almost all heads of revenue except Customs, the income under Railways having "completely falsified" his anticipations. The budgeted net receipt of Rs. 1½ lakhs under Railways turned out to be a loss of Rs. 1½ lakhs, "worsening the estimate by Rs. 3 lakhs". Yet, the Financial Secretary expects Rs. 2½ lakhs next year on account of the increase in passenger fares. He has candidly and piteously admitted the lamentable fact that neither he nor the Darbar has any "means of exercising any control over" either the working charges of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

railway line or the interest charges to be paid on the sterling debentures. Regarding the anticipated income under Railways, one is therefore bound to say that the Financial Secretary is reckoning without the host. But what the people of Travancore have to bemoan their Sirkar is on account of the latter's predicament in having to grant Rs. 1 lakh and odd for capital expenditure on Railways—principally for demolishing old and putting up new buildings—while they are forced to cut down Rs. 5 lakhs out of their own P. W. D. expenses, out of which Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs come under communications. The only other principal sources under which the Financial Secretary expects an increase of revenue in 1098 over that of this year, are Land Revenue and Income Tax. Knowing as one does the method by which incomes of persons are arrived at and the manner in which income tax appeals are disposed of, one may grant that the expected increase of Rs. $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs under Income Tax may be realised in the coming year. But one cannot help being a little sceptical about the realisation of the increases under Land Revenue. For, out of the anticipated increase of Rs. 4 lakhs under this head, Rs. 2 lakhs is expected from *puduval* registry alone. To make a correct estimate of the revenue under this item, one has to consider the income under this head in the past years. In 1095, the income under *puduval* registry was Rs. 4,50,654, while in 1096 it fell to Rs. 2,89,677. Under the revised estimate of this year, Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs alone is expected. While the average annual income from this source had been Rs. 4 lakhs for some years past, it is seen to have fallen suddenly by almost Rs. $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs in 1096 and by a further sum of about Rs. 40,000 in 1097. The Financial Secretary attributes this fall to "trade depression and the prevailing great scarcity of money". He, however, expects "at least a partial improvement in the coming year in the present depression of trade and monetary stringency." Unfortunately, he does not state anywhere in his speech the reasons that actuated him to entertain this expectation, and it is, therefore, difficult for one to share his optimism. On the contrary, the daily happenings in this country make one believe that the money market is likely to remain tight for a pretty long period to come. "Turning to the other side of the picture", as the Financial Secretary himself has put it, we find in this year "a deterioration under almost all the remaining heads" excepting Customs. In the coming year, the Financial Secretary expects, to borrow his own words again, "a serious fall of nearly Rs. $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in the Excise Revenue". This mighty fall is also not without an explanation. Its main cause is attributed to the agitation among Ezhavas against toddy-drawing. Whether this agitation is due to a realisation by the Ezhavas of the moral degradation involved in tapping, or to the want of tact and sympathy on the part of the Excise Commissioner in dealing with qualified Ezhava applicants for posts in the department and to the persecution of Ezhava tappers by the agents of abkari contractors under the farming system, or to the preachings of non-co-operation, is not made manifest in the Financial Secretary's speech. The secondary cause of this fall is laid directly at the door of the Commissioner himself. During the time of his acting

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

period, the Commissioner, without paying due regard to the probable gain or loss to the successful bidders, allowed the bids to go so abnormally high that many a contractor has been impoverished. This fall is, therefore, due to some extent, says the Financial Secretary, "to a natural re-action from the large increases in the current lease over the last." The fall of Rs. 3½ lakhs is stated to be only the immediate result of the Ezhava agitation. But the new leases, it is to be noted, are to take effect only from the beginning of 1098, and what guarantee is there that a peaceful agitation of the kind, if conducted on well-organised and constitutional methods on a larger scale, may not cause a still further reduction in the excise revenue? It is, however, strange that the Financial Secretary has no schemes for getting over these difficulties which, after all, mainly depend upon the contentment of the Ezhavas and do not appear insurmountable.

Besides the above difficulties in accepting the forecast made by the Financial Secretary, there are two pieces of internal evidence in his speech which go to show that the attempt of the Financial Secretary to show a surplus, however small, in the budget estimate of the coming year, is only a manipulation of figures. Firstly, he admits that he has "as yet no exact information of the pay which the revised staff will receive and have not thus been able to provide the actual amounts required for salaries of officers and establishments in the new year". Secondly, the Financial Secretary has told us that out of Rs. 11 lakhs due to the stationery contractors till the end of 1097, "the amount that will be left unpaid at the close of this year will be Rs. 4 lakhs." The budget allotment of Rs. 3 lakhs in 1098 is also intended to pay off the arrears, while the next year's supply which is expected to cost Rs. 1¾ lakhs and the balance of Rs. 1 lakh which would remain due to the contractors, are expected to be paid in 1099. This admission on the part of the Financial Secretary at once shows that his statement in the budget "that the ordinary transactions of the year (1097) are expected to result in a nominal surplus of Rs. 4,400" does not exhibit the true result of the years' transactions, and that, in the coming year also, the Sirkar would remain indebted to the contractors alone to the sum of Rs. 2¾ lakhs. It is, therefore, seen that the surplus of Rs. 6,500 shown in the budget estimate of 1098 also does not represent the exact state of the balance of our transactions.

We are, however, thankful to note that the attention of Government has after all been drawn to the wasteful extravagance of the Stationery Department. The expression "needless waste" used by the Financial Secretary in his speech creates the impression that, in the opinion of Government, some waste is considered needful. The waste of paper seen involved in some of the letters sent to the members by the Secretary to the Legislative Council helps to strengthen this impression. The budget estimate of 1097 shows that the Government has spent over Rs. 10,000 in deputing the Stationery Superintendent to Madras. It would have

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

been a source of consolation to know what are the "necessary steps" that are being taken by the Government "to avoid needless waste".

While admitting that the increase of expenditure during the past three years is abnormal, the Financial Secretary contends that it is only apparent. His argument in support of this contention is that in 1095 the expenditure suddenly jumped up to Rs. 16 lakhs, while in 1096 it went up by another Rs. 19 lakhs. This does not mean that the Financial Secretary is helpless, if expenditure begins to make sudden jumps. For, in paragraph 3 of his speech, he explains himself and lays the blame of these jumps to a mistaken calculation made by the Government—apparently without consulting him—regarding the "generally prosperous condition of the State and the steady increase of its revenues". In other words, the surplus of Rs. 20,88,233 at the end of 1094 led the Government into believing that the people are prosperous and that the surplus of the previous year indicated a steady income. They were therefore liberal in their allotments for 1095, while in 1096 they were compelled to spend more on account of the acute distress among the subordinate staff and increased expenditure in certain departments.

The Financial Secretary offers no explanation why the revenue in 1095 and 1096 increased only by Rs. 3½ lakhs and Rs. 9 lakhs, while the expenditure jumped up to Rs. 16 lakhs and Rs. 19 lakhs, respectively, except giving us a warning "that it would be rash to expect any large or sudden increases in our normal resources" in the future. At the same time he frankly admits that the demands of the future are increasing. To meet the growing demands, the Financial Secretary suggests the improvement of revenue resources as a clear necessity. But one may look in vain throughout the length and breadth of his speech to see even a single suggestion regarding the means proposed for directly improving the resources of the State. Another duty he has cast upon himself to meet the "ever-increasing outlay" in the future is "strict economy and all reasonable retrenchments". The Financial Secretary contends that it was by exercising strict economy and reasonable retrenchments that he succeeded in converting "what should have been a deficit budget for 1098 into a budget without a deficit". I refuse to believe that the Financial Secretary would seriously claim any credit for this conversion. For, in paragraph 14, he admits that he was obliged to make not reasonable but relentless retrenchments. In an essentially agricultural country like Travancore, with an ever-increasing population having no suitable facilities for intensive cultivation, it requires uncommon courage to cut Rs. 2½ lakhs under "communications," and distribute it among the Police, Excise and other departments in the name of "efficiency of service." I feel ashamed to think that a Native State like Travancore should ask its stationery suppliers for time to pay a debt of Rs. 4 lakhs. When the State puts itself under such humiliation, it is not strange that it has made up its mind to invest Rs. 3 lakhs in a concern of questionable profit—questionable, I say, as the investment is decided to be made in direct contravention of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. V. Raman Pillai.]

the express recommendations of a responsible body of officials and non-officials, such as the Economic Development Board. I do not know if any credit is to be given to the Financial Secretary for preparing what may be termed "a surplus budget", without providing Government with any reserve worth mentioning for meeting unforeseen expenses. The Financial Secretary's claim for having exercised "strict economy" in the preparation of the budget is also open to very grave doubts. The retention of the Land Records Establishment including Puduval Survey Parties, about the results of whose work Government had already expressed their disappointment; the creation of the Sub-Inspectors, the retention of unnecessary Circles and the conversion of Circle Officers into Assistant Excise Commissioners; the conversion of Circle Inspectors into Assistant Superintendents of Police on a higher pay; the provision of Rs. 8,000 for a motor car and its maintenance to the Police Commissioner; the institution of a clerical staff to each District Superintendent of Police as costly as the office establishment of the Director of Agriculture or the Registrar of Co-operative Societies; the sanctioning of extra funds for the patrol of the Police to the horror of honest citizens in the capital; the retention of the Forest College, started against the joint recommendation made by the heads of the Development Departments; the liberal provision made for the appointment of additional temporary staff and officers in the Judicial Department; and the extravagant waste in the Stationery Department and in the Government Press—these are some of the very many glaring instances proving the kind of economy observed in spending the finances of the State.

Under these circumstances, I leave it to this Council to decide, on a careful and dispassionate consideration of the facts and figures mentioned above, whether "the abnormal increase of expenditure during the past three years" is apparent, as the Financial Secretary contends, or real, whether there is sufficient basis for the general impression that "expenditure in the State has been growing in recent years out of all proportion to its revenues" and whether the often-expressed fear that Government "are drifting consciously or unconsciously into bankruptcy" is without foundation or not.

I thank you, Sir, for your kind indulgence.

MR. V. RAMAN PILLAI: Mr. President, let me thank Mr. George as well as the Government for the trouble taken in presenting the budget in the form in which it is presented to us. I also thank him for the skill and learning he has exhibited in presenting the budget for 1098 without deficit. I may submit that, though the budget appears to be without deficit, still it can be shown that it is rather a budget of deficit; for, we are told by the Financial Secretary that from information which he has received till now there would be a decrease to the extent of Rs. 7 lakhs in the estimated revenue Then again, another rider he has added to it, *viz.*, that the amount budgeted for from the Forest Department is not included. Thus, the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

budget will be without a deficit, only in case the whole amount budgeted for by the Forest Department is realised in full. It is a matter of common knowledge from the previous history of the Forest Department that this department was not able to realise the amount budgeted for, at least for the last 10 or 12 years; and so it is natural for us to expect that the revenue from the Forest Department in 1097 will be less than what is budgeted for. Then again, the Financial Secretary expects that in 1098 there will be an increase of Rs. 2 lakhs by the sale of *puduval* lands, Rs. 1 lakh in the receipts from the railways and Rs. 1 lakh from income tax. Now, as to the first item of the expected increase in the revenue, he has not given, as my friend Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai pointed out, any reason to show that there will be an increase of revenue by the sale of *puduval* lands, because the Financial Secretary admits in his opening speech that for the sale of *puduval* lands in 1097 also there was every convienence. There were certain survey parties working and making the lands available even in small areas ready for registry or purchase by people in auction. But the people were not able to avail themselves of the opportunity because of money stringency and trade depression. As far as we are able to see the conditions existing here and elsewhere now, there is no prospect of trade revival or the removal of money stringency in the near future. Therefore, I do not think that the increase of revenue contemplated from the Land Revenue Department can be realised. Then, as to the assessment from income, I understand that all possible income has already been assessed and that there remains very little for assessment in 1098. So, the anticipated income for 1098 under this head can also be removed from the pages of the budget. Then again, coming to the other item of income, *i. e.*, the income from the railways, so far as my information goes, after the recent increase of railway fares, railway income is going down. Of course, one would naturally think that by increasing the fares the income must proportionately increase. But what we practically see is not the expected result. The reasons for this may be many. One of these may be money scarcity and another the existence of cheaper means of communication. We are aware of the fact that there are several cheaper means of communication, *i. e.*, motor buses, etc. Unless the railway fare is made cheaper, the revenue under this head will go down still further. I may say also that the increase of Rs. 4 lakhs anticipated by the Financial Secretary will not be had under the head of railway receipts. For these reasons, I submit that the budget for 1098 will be a deficit budget to this extent, even granting that all other expectations are fulfilled. But the Financial Secretary has reviewed the income of the State for the last 10 years. He states that the increase in the income of the State has risen to Rs. 57 lakhs while the expenditure has gone up to Rs. 61 lakhs, so that at least the accounts of the past 10 years show that there has been an increase on the expenditure side to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs. He further points out that the expenditure is likely to increase year after year in future. The main source of increase in the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. V. Raman Pillai.]

revenue was the Excise Department. Now, owing to the non-co-operation of Ezhavas in the matter of tapping toddy, the income from that department has gone down considerably. We may take it that there is every likelihood of the income going down still further as years roll on, unless special care is taken by the Government in this direction. Now, as it is, it is evident that this is a very serious matter to be taken into account, because the conduct of the toddy-drawer class shows that they may strike work at any time and thereby the income of the State from the abkari line is likely to be considerably cut short. What I want to say is that the policy of retrenchment followed by the Government must be strictly pushed on right through without affecting the efficiency of the administration. It is also seen from the budget that the policy of the Government is one of retrenchment, and as has already been pointed out, several so-called retrenchments have been effected already. But they are as a matter of fact no retrenchments at all. No doubt, some appointments have been done away with, but instead of the establishment cost decreasing, it has increased and the pay of the officers has also increased. We find, on an examination of the budget for 1095, 1096 and 1097, that there has been an increase of about Rs. 10 lakhs in the pay and allowances of officers. So, the retrenchment followed is strictly no retrenchment at all in the right direction, because the pay and allowances of the higher grades of officers have increased without any sense of proportion. I still maintain that, though some sort of retrenchment has been effected by the Government, real retrenchment is yet possible in various departments. For instance, in the case of the Land Revenue Department, by the separation of the Devaswom and the magisterial work from the Tahsildars, the work of the taluks has been considerably lightened, so much so that the Assistant Tahsildars' posts could be safely abolished without detriment to the efficiency of the administration. That will certainly bring a good deal of saving to the Government. The post of the Assistant Commissioner, Devicolam, could also be abolished. Another department is the Police Department, in which also the appointments of Assistant Superintendents and First Grade Inspectors are a superfluity and could be done away with because their business is mainly one of transmission of papers. They have practically no field work, unless when urgently called. They have nothing to do with the detection of crimes. The whole brunt of the work is now borne by the Sub-Inspector and to my mind it appears that the department could be efficiently managed with the District Superintendents of Police and the Sub-Inspectors and staff. The abolition of the Assistant Superintendents and the First Grade Inspectors will give a saving. These two sets of officers could be easily dispensed with. Then again, in the Excise Department also retrenchment is possible. We have too many Assistant Commissioners. They have no work in connection with the detection or prevention of crimes and their duty mainly consists in the transmission of papers to their respective departmental heads. There were Inspectors

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

and Petty Officers before. Between these two classes of officers we have now got a set of officers called Sub-Inspectors. We were getting on without these Sub-Inspectors before this most profitably. Hence these people are unnecessary and they could be safely dispensed with.

Even in the administration of justice, I may submit, the appointment of an Additional Bench in the High Court could be dispensed with. It can be seen from the file that the cases filed in the High Court every year are not increasing, as they were in previous years. For the last two years there has been a decrease in the file of the High Court and the subordinate courts. Now, the pending cases in the High Court also, I understand, are comparatively few—below 1,000. The appointment of Additional Judges in the various District Courts, in spite of popular opinion to the contrary, is, I think, a matter which must engage the serious attention of the Government. By abolishing these appointments a respectable portion of the State revenue could be utilised in other useful directions, *e. g.*, for the development of various other departments. Then, with regard to the P. W. D. here again, there are too many officers without adequate work. For instance, the Executive Engineers, even after the recent reduction in their number, are too many. Two or three more of them could be dispensed with without curtailing efficiency in the control and management of works in the department. I submit that, in these various ways, it is possible for the Government to effect retrenchment and not by dispensing with the services of low-paid servants and increasing the pay and allowances of the higher officers. It is in the higher grades of the service that reduction ought to be made and not in the lower ranks. I hope the Government will consider these suggestions carefully when the detailed discussion on the budget comes up.

MR. K. C. RAJA RAJA VARMA: Sir, it is with sincere pleasure that I congratulate the Financial Secretary on the very able and clear speech with which he introduced the budget estimate for the next year in this House. There was really an apprehension in the minds of many that the financial effect of the recent revision of salaries of officers and the increased cost of materials and services would be to land the Government in a substantial deficit next year. I am glad to find that the expenditure proposed for the next year has been so fixed as not to exceed the total revenue estimated to be collected. Increased sums have been allotted to most of the departments (excepting the Public Works Department) which contribute towards the moral and material progress of the people. A substantial sum has been set apart for the organisation of the new Devaswom Department, and Rs. 16 lakhs have been fixed as the State's contribution to the Devaswom Fund for 1098. Provision has also been made to meet the advance charges of some functions which have to be discharged in 1099. While agreeing to many of the statements made by Mr. George, I am sorry that I have to disagree with him in some which are likely to give us wrong notions about the actual state of the country.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. C. Raja Raja Varma.]

Mr. George has stated in his speech that the revenue and the expenditure for the next year are only just made to meet each other, and that he expects a surplus of only a few thousands of rupees. I may observe that this is the result of an over-estimate of the expenditure on his part. In fixing the expenditure on the salaries of officers, he has calculated the average cost of the appointments in the sanctioned scale. But in the large majority of cases the officers would be only drawing the minimum or the earlier scales in their pay, while the budget figures allotted for them would be the salaries which they would receive during the later periods of their service. The financial effect of the revision of salaries is, therefore, not likely to come to what he anticipates, and there is every possibility of a substantial surplus being left behind at the end of the next year, if unforeseen expenses do not face the Government.

Again, the member in charge of finance refers in more than one place in his speech to the moral and material progress of the people in recent years. I am sorry to observe that the data on which he bases his conclusions are subject to very strong objection. He relies mainly on the increased revenues from certain heads such as Excise, Customs, Stamps, Registration and Forest. While the increasing revenue under Customs is a sign of our increasing commercial activity and consequently of our producing more wealth, the increases under the other heads have no direct connection with the production of wealth and therefore they cannot denote any material prosperity. But the increase under Customs accounts only for a rise of Rs. 13½ lakhs. The true data which give us an idea of the progressive well-being of the people are those relating to their increased earning capacity, their standards of life and comfort, their economic efficiency and their contentment. The Financial Secretary has not a word to say regarding any of these.

During the past ten years, the State revenue has increased from Rs. 138 lakhs to Rs. 195 lakhs or by Rs. 57 lakhs. If this enormous increase is a sure index of the increased moral and material prosperity of the people, as claimed by Mr. George, then their standard of life and comfort and their efficiency ought to have been much higher than what they are to-day. If he had included in the above list increased revenues from the Departments of Agriculture, Industries, Geology, and Marine, he would have been justified in his conclusions. The omission of all these sources is significant and shows that the much-talked-of "material prosperity" does not really exist. We know that the sufferings of the people, owing to the disorganised state of trade and the scarcity and the prohibitive cost of the necessaries of life, have been intense in the past. Our country has to depend to a large extent for its food supply and other essential articles on foreign countries. The abnormal increase in the consumption of intoxicants is sapping the vital energies of the people. Industrial undertakings are very slow to get themselves established in the land. Under these circumstances, it is very hazardous to hold that the enormous increase in revenue is only a natural result of the increasing material prosperity of the people and their increased buying power.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

It is the increased taxation under all heads during these ten years that has caused this inflation of revenue. Land tax has been raised from one *fanam* to fifteen *fanams*. Court-fees and registration and education fees have been enhanced more than once. The tax on salt was more than doubled. Tariff rates for timber and fuel have been raised as high as possible. Taxes on income, professions, etc., have begun to be levied. There is thus enough ground for holding that the bulk of the increase in our revenue is obtained by additional taxation.

Though the enhancement of the revenue in all the cases mentioned above affects the masses considerably, there is no item which presses more on the poor people than the duty on salt. Last year it was raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 1¼, and this year it was again temporarily raised to Rs. 2½ per *maund*. Being one of the necessaries of life, salt is one of the last items which should be availed of for the purpose of raising revenue—and even that only when there is no other possibility of meeting a deficit. That this temporary enhancement of duty by more than cent. per cent. has affected the quantity consumed is seen from the decrease in income expected to accrue this year.

If, on the other hand, it is necessary to point out a source which can be tapped to the benefit of the State and the people, there is, I think, no better source than intoxicants. Though Mr. George has told us that excise revenue has risen by Rs. 19 lakhs during the past ten years, I may observe that it is capable of much higher taxation. This is the one source of revenue that is steadily increasing every year and eats away the moral and material prosperity of the people. The revenue under excise which stood at Rs. 27 lakhs in 1087 rose to Rs. 32½ lakhs in 1091 and went on steadily increasing every year until it reached the record figure of Rs. 47 lakhs in 1096. This abnormal increase in excise revenue ought to have been taken notice of by the Government for the purpose of examining their excise policy. If this increase is mainly the result of raising the duty on intoxicants, it would only have been in consonance with their policy. But I wish to point out that the increase in revenue of Rs. 19 lakhs is not due to any enhancement of duty, but to the large increase in consumption. The statement which the the Excise Commissioner has kindly supplied me shows that the quantity of arrack alone has increased from 1,00,000 of proof gallons in 1087 to 1,60,000 proof gallons in 1095, and the increase in the quantity of toddy is represented by the yielding capacity of an addition of 51,000 palm trees. Though the consumption of foreign liquor, tobacco and other excise articles has also increased a little during the period, the main increase has taken place under arrack and toddy. It is not too much to say that this enormous increase would seriously affect the moral and material progress of the people.

In this connection, I would also point out that the method adopted by the department in ascertaining the consumption of intoxicants in the country is open to serious objection. The average quantity consumed per head has been calculated on the total population. We know that a large section of the population abstain totally from drink; and no

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. C. Raja Raja Varma.]

useful purpose is, therefore, served by bringing this section of the people also under calculation. The calculation must be made on the average number of people who frequent arrack and toddy shops. If this method were adopted, we would be in a position to know whether the number of people who frequent these shops increases or diminishes yearly and whether the quantity consumed per head goes up or down. Another objection which I wish to point out to the department is the inclusion of the reserve forests in calculating the area which a shop is intended to serve. If we exclude these forests which are not ordinarily occupied, we see that we have one shop in the State for every $2\frac{1}{2}$ square miles on the average, while in Vaikam, Shertallai and other places, the density of the shops is considerably higher. The statistics now prepared by the department are thus misleading, and it is therefore highly necessary that the defects shown here should be removed as early as possible.

The main consideration which should weigh with the Government in fixing the amount of taxation derived from excise articles is whether the duty imposed sufficiently checks the evils of intemperate drinking. The duty must be pitched so high as to make it hardly possible for ordinary people, especially labourers, to get themselves off their feet by spending the margin of their day's earnings. The number of shops in the State must be considerably reduced; and local option must be allowed to Municipalities and rural Panchayats to give effect to the opinion of the people. I would, therefore, request Government to take early steps in these directions.

If we turn our attention to the external trade of our country, we find the balance of trade to be hardly in our favour. Though the value of the exports last year exceeded that of the imports by Rs. $1\frac{4}{5}$ crores, we must deduct from this amount the profits of foreign commercial companies, the pensions and other sums given to residents abroad and a substantial part of the value of cardamom, tea, rubber and coffee (which are mostly under the control of foreigners) for the purpose of knowing the real condition of our external trade. The value of cardamom, tea, etc., alone comes to Rs. 2 and odd crores; and if we add to this the amounts derived from the other heads, we would get a correct idea of the amount of wealth going out of the country in return for the value of the articles we get from outside. Moreover, the bulk of our exports consists of raw materials, while our imports are mostly rice and manufactured goods. A country's trade can be considered to be in a healthy state only when the excess of its manufactured articles is given in exchange for materials which cannot be profitably produced in the country or which should be imported into it to carry on the local industries. If we view the state of our trade from these standpoints, we cannot but infer the balance of trade to be very much against us. It is therefore the duty of the Government to give as much help as possible to industrial and agricultural undertakings. I am glad to find that Government have realised the absolute necessity of leaving the policy of *laissez faire* aside and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

actively promoting the industrial and commercial concerns of our country.

Coming to the side of expenditure, I think it desirable to make some observations on the recent revision of salaries. The general impression is that it has improved the condition of the higher ranks of the services only, and that it has not bettered the pay and prospects of the employees drawing Rs. 50 and less. The vernacular school teachers who influence the mind of a large majority of the future citizens of the land are given only the pay assigned to peons and mochies in some other departments. The clerical and other lower ranks of the service have to wait for about 15 years to get an increment of eight or ten rupees. As a good deal of the efficiency of the administration depends upon the moral and material condition of these officers, I would request Government to remove their hardships by diminishing the periods of the scale and increasing the minimum pay in cases where it is insufficient to meet their expenses according to their station in life and the importance of the work they do.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, this is the first time in the annals of the Council that we approach questions of finance with a sense of real responsibility; for, hitherto, the members on this side of the House who talked on the budget were unable to direct the application of a single rupee and had to satisfy themselves with the music of their own voices. To-day the law allows us the power to dispose of Rs. 118 lakhs out of a total of Rs. 194 lakhs budgeted for expenditure, and, with all the divergence of interest, differences of opinion and unseen influences that might be brought into play in the course of the discussion, this House can legitimately feel that, if they stand united, their influence in the disposal of funds is not altogether negligible. No doubt, we are in a state of *amæba*, but the limbs of power are in the course of making. The wise and gracious words of our Sovereign's message are still ringing in our ears. His Highness the Maha Raja commanded the creation of this Council in 1063 and has been commanding improvements to be made in its constitution and powers. It is because of these frequent commandments that we are enabled to take interest in public affairs and it is our foremost duty to tender our loyal and respectful gratitude to our Royal Master for placing the key of administration in our keeping. The key is an obstructive one, for it can only lock and not open the doors; but I am sure it will very soon acquire and exercise both its natural powers. We have also to thank the talented minister who has had the wisdom and courage to recommend large powers being given to this Council.

Sir, the people of this State have, for several years, been groaning under the weight of increasing taxation. During the last 16 years, our revenue has increased by Rs. 93 lakhs. The price of Government land has been raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 25 per acre and its annual tax from one *fanam* to 15 *fanams*. Customs duties, salt duties stamp duties, registration fees, court-fees and school fees have all been increased. Toll fees and municipal rates have been added. The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

original object was to pluck the goose with as little squealing as possible, but latterly the squealing was taken as a matter of course.

"Again the taxing man appeared—
No deadlier foe could be:
A schedule of cloth a yard long,
Within his hand bore he;
Yield thee, Duke Smithson, and behold
The assessment thou must pay;
Dogs, horses, houses, coaches, clocks
And servants in array"

The rich and poor alike felt the burden. The representatives of the people both in this Council and in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly raised their voices of protest againt the soulless fiscal measures, but their voices were not heeded, because, by creating a host of high-paid officers and by embarking on schemes of doubtful utility, the State had committed itself to a course of unavoidable expenditure. The budget ought to be a balance between the needs and resources of the State; and the fundamental principle of taxation in all countries is that taxes are levied with the consent, express or implied, of the people. That principle had long been accepted in Travancore and that is the reason why taxation had been comparatively light here. Mr. President, it is necessary that the Government should be armed with large powers, but its powers in the direction of imposing taxes have to be strictly limited. This wise limitation of the powers of Government had been accepted and acted upon by all western countries and particularly by England from which we borrow the theory and practice of the art of Government. Charles II, ascending the throne on the crest of a wave of enthusiastic loyalty, had to appeal to Parliament in these words. His Majesty said:

"Since ascending the throne I have been unable to give one single shilling to my brothers or to maintain a table other than the one at which I myself sit. What causes me the greatest pain, however, is to see some of you coming to Whitehall and then having to go out again for a dinner."

And Philippe de Commines, minister and *confidante* of Louis XI of France, wrote:

"Is there any king or lord on earth who has the power to impose a tax upon his subjects without the consent of those who must pay the tax, unless he does it through tyranny and violence?"

It is the attempt to tax America without its consent that cost England a whole continent. And it is a wide sense of suffering economic evils that will withold from any Government the willing support of the governed. When the great autocrats of former centuries have by word and deed admitted the force of this principle, it does not stand to reason that the administration of an Indian State should take away from the people more than what is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the public powers, when our gracious Ruler himself is so

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solicitous of the welfare of his subjects and leads a life of austere simplicity and rigid economy. It will not pay Government to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. The safe course—and the only safe course—for the Government is to increase the wealth and prosperity of the people by proper measures of agrarian and economic reform and increase the taxable margin of the wealth of the individual. Mr. Krishna Aiyangar has already referred to the need for investigation about the revision of the Interportal Convention. Although it is excluded under the Regulation from the purview of this Council, you, Sir, had the kindness to allow that proposal being made. That is a very important matter. I wish that it will be enquired into. There is one more matter which I wish to place before this Council, and that is that this investigation should not be made with the object of increasing the export or the import duty, for it is a fundamental principle that imports in the last resort should be paid for by exports and not by money. If it is paid in money, the people of the country will suffer.

The budget and the statement supporting it with reasons were placed in our hands four days ago, though I received a letter from the Secretary intimating to me that the budget estimate would be sent in advance. I learn that this year's budget was a task of extraordinary difficulty and I also learn that the Dewan had to be closeted with his heads of departments a good many days to arrange the scales even. If the task is so difficult to the experts who are always dealing with facts and figures, it cannot be imagined that the gentlemen on this side of the House will find it convenient to study the figures running over a hundred closely printed pages and offer their constructive criticisms on the numerous heads of revenue and expenditure. I trust that Government will be pleased to arrange for the preparation of the budget earlier in the years to come.

I have read Mr. George's speech very carefully and I am glad to congratulate him on his ability to manipulate the figures. But the work is cast in the usual mould and is of the usual metal. As he himself has admitted in his speech, he has made one cut here and another cut there, but whether the cut has not penetrated to the arteries is more than one could say at present. He speaks of relentless retrenchment; but I have not been able to find out how the reduction of the staff in the different departments has affected the finances. It is not proper that the figures should be allowed to grow in the archives of the Account Office. It is not to see the simple rules of arithmetic being worked out by the Financial Secretary that we come and sit here. It is the causes of additions and subtractions that we wish to learn from him. We are not satisfied if he simply says that he expects an increase under the head of income tax. We want the data which enabled him to make the calculation. Mr. George says that the cause of the budgeted deficit in customs is that the figures of 1097 showed the largest exports and imports. What we want is how the prediction is justified by facts which every one can scrutinise for oneself. I am glad that Government is beginning to realise the decrease in the sale of Sirkar lands. I have always thought that the amounts

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

recovered under the head of *tharavila* are not revenue, but the price of natural resources. The Financial Secretary's speech refers to the material and moral advancement of the people. Sir, this is tall talk which can only please the ear; for, I know as a matter of fact that, during the last 4 or 5 years, the sufferings of the people due to poverty and disease have been intense. I have been in touch with the people and know their condition well. The Government spends heaps of money on so-called education, but that education does not provide its votaries with the means of livelihood. You have created the Development Departments; but the world has yet to learn the actual progress made. I hope Mr George will give me facts and figures in his reply. Sir, these words, 'development', 'material resources', and 'moral prosperity,' are forgotten during the first eleven months of the year and are impressed into the service of heads of departments when the Administration Report is under preparation. I would ask: "How many acres of new land have been brought under cultivation during the last 12 months?" How many industries have been started and what is the addition to the earning capacity of the average Travancorean? What is the measure of the rise in the standard of comfort?" The only rise in the standard of comfort as disclosed by the statistics is among those sections of the people who frequent the taverns and arrack shops, for we find an increase of about 60,000 proof gallons of arrack and in the quantity of toddy as represented by the yielding capacity of 50,000 palm trees during 10 years. Sir, whatever may be the views of the Financial Secretary on this question, I hope the views of the Government will not be in favour of this kind of prosperity. Economy is the first lesson that the Government should put into practice. But the State can also improve commercial activities.

On the side of expenditure the arrangement has been arbitrary and that is seen from comparing the funds allotted for Education and Public Works. In the Education Department, much of the amount is destined to be paid to teachers, and is, therefore, imperative; but in the Public Works Department the works useful to the public at large could be kept in the background without much personal inconvenience. For the last ten years, the people have been crying for reductions in the number of the teaching staff in the Arts College. But the Government have not been pleased to look into the matter; and with tutorial classes and other amusing diversions the expenditure has been on the increase. In 1090, I protested in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly against the waste of public funds in the ramparts and fortifications in the Training College; and in 1097 we find a huge three-storied building raising its proud head in the very same compound at a cost of over Rs. 2 lakhs. The expenditure on the huge Vanchiyur School was disapproved and the Government pushed on with the construction of another pile of school buildings at Nagercoil. In the course of twenty-five years, the Excise Department was organised four times; Abkari Sub-Inspectors were made Excise Inspectors and *vice versa*. Police Circles were established, and then

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

abolished; and ultimately Assistant Superintendents have been appointed in their stead. A Deputy Chief Engineership was created and after ten years it was abolished. The features common to all these shufflings were an utter disregard of the people's voice and an inordinate tendency to spend the public money. Mr. President, every Dewan who presided over our destinies has had a faculty to reorganise the several departments of the public service; but the process is still going on. A Judge accumulates arrears and one more is readily appointed, and when he too begins to enjoy the atmosphere of indolence, a third Judge is in the making. There is now too much division and subdivision of labour and yet work is slack. If a controlling officer has the nerve to punish one of his subordinates, the culprit takes leave, goes about advertising his sufferings and sees persons of influence and he is safe again. I think there is ample scope for economy in the public service and I would borrow a phrase from Mr George and say that there is room for relentless economy. There was the report of the Salaries Committee and there was the proposal to reorganise the departments. Why did the Government not wait for the Council?

The present administration has strength enough to apply the surgeon's knife, if an excresence is pointed out. May I venture to suggest that three Peishcars are sufficient for the State and that a high-paid Commissioner is unnecessary for a light division like Devicolam? The present Commissioner may be appointed to another suitable place. The *cadre* of Assistant Tahsildars should be abolished. Another source of economy lies in the abolition of the Development Board. A sum of Rs. 12,000 is set apart for that high-sounding name. The Public Lecture Committee has been following a steady course of deterioration during the last few years. One would like to have seen it mended; but, if that is not possible, ending is the best method. There is now a vacancy in the post of the Superintendent of Archæology. Sir, I am not an enemy of archæological researches; but if the place is to be maintained for mere show and a kind of State charity, it has to be abolished. I wish the gentleman in charge of the budget will enlighten me if any work has been done during the last three or four years and, if so, its nature and quality, in order to justify us in keeping the department going. The Government will be saving some money, if the archæological staff is absorbed in the general service and the honorary post of Superintendent is conferred on some qualified scholar in the ranks of the service. There is one other proposal which I wish to place before Government in this connection, and that is in relation to the allowances given to certain classes of officers. A Professor of the College is given an allowance to lend the name of Director to the Observatory, another to be the Secretary to the Public Library, and a third to be the President or Secretary to the Text Book Committee. I know these gentlemen catch the goodwill of the auspicious stars before going to their respective offices. I know that once the Chief Secretary to Government was not above accepting a small allowance for being in charge of the golf-links. These allowances engender nepotism and lower the *morale* of the service. There is what is called the horse allowance for certain executive officers. They

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

have no horses and on *Arat* and other festive occasions they are obliged to hire jutka ponies to make a show. I remember being taught in class the amusing story of Tippu Sultan once sanctioning horse allowances for his admirals, although they lived on the seas.

Mr. President, I am obliged to say that, in spite of the complacent vein in which Mr. George has spoken of the efficiency of the service, I am reluctant to accept it. I feel the average official has lost in strength, capacity, knowledge and prestige. Our officers appear to have a disregard for learning and this is proved by the following table showing the amount of money budgeted for the purchase of books:

Land Revenue Commissioner	...	Rs. 100
All the Taluk Cutcherries	...	,, 100
Excise Commissioner	...	,, 50
Survey Superintendent	...	,, 25
Conservator of Forests	...	,, 100
Director of Registration	...	,, 50
Director of Public Instruction	...	,, 100
Sanitary Commissioner	...	,, 75

And it is also interesting to remember that, although a very large amount of money is expended on the Police and the Magistracy, the State has not found it possible to prevent breaches of the peace. The Haripad temple conflagration, the students' strike occurrences in Trivandrum, and the polling scandals at Tiruvalla are comments on the doctrine of efficiency and prestige. The fundamental duty of the State is to detect crime and preserve peace and I hope no money will be withheld from these most necessary purposes.

A word now about the three important departments of Agriculture, Industries and Ayurveda. There is no use in worshipping the fetish of development. If Government is in earnest, they have to give up their present policy of parsimony. It is better to spend large sums and obtain good results than follow a questionable course of limited expenditure and sure failure. I need hardly point out that, if Mr. Chacko had not been made the Director of Industries, he would have been in a very difficult situation; for he had to lose the best part of his life in the Department of Geology with small pay and no work. All this is due to the want of a sense of responsibility on the part of Government. Anyhow by keeping the Department of Geology idle the Government has lost hundreds of thousands of rupees. It is the people's money and the Government is morally responsible for the wastage. I should like to suggest that a constructive programme be placed before these three departments and proper encouragment and resources be allotted to them. The matter is one of very great importance.

The framing of the budget is a difficult technical matter. But it is more difficult to improve one already made than to create a new one, for priority means supremacy. If you rear an edifice of glass, it will be very difficult to remove the lower layers without injury to the whole structure. In the same way, when details have been settled by experienced hands and things put in places to fit in with the whole, it is not

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

quite easy to make structural alterations. The work of modification is rendered more difficult by the prohibitory provisions of the Regulation which have been designed to stay the hands of non-official members. As the law now stands, this Council has no power to vote a formal address of congratulation to His Highness the Maha Raja. We are unable to make a proposal to send men and supplies for the assistance of the Paramount Power at a time of stress. We cannot whisper anything which means the modification of commercial treaties, though the changes will be to the advantage of all the parties concerned. We cannot pass a Resolution to extend a railway line or make a recommendation for the assistance of vagrancy or consider the question of a small increase being given to the pay of the military forces. Mr. President, institutions like this are justified more by the manner in which they are worked, by the spirit which animates those in authority who work them, than by their form. Hence we are astonished to find in the midst of all these democratic institutions a lurking suspicion of the people's power which peep out from every rule and bye-law made to regulate the business of this Council. His Highness' experiments in constitution-making have been very successful; and, I am sure, Mr. President, that yours will be the proud privilege of announcing to us next year that our powers to discuss the budget and vote grants have been greatly extended.

I cannot resume my seat without thanking Mr George once more for his exposition of the budget. Mr. Gladstone once described the finance minister as a man who is obliged to travel over a road leading through a thicket full of ambushes, while holding a balancing rod in his hand. But his trust is a sacred one. Necker, the celebrated finance minister of France, said in one of his orations to the Academy of France:

"All the sentiments of my heart, all my thoughts, every moment of my life can harm or benefit twenty millions of people and make for the ruin or the happiness of the future race. This is probably the greatest power that can be entrusted to human intelligence".

Let us all remember this sentiment in the course of our discussion.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: Sir, I wish to make a few general observations on the budget. My first observation is regarding the income side. In all progressive countries, there is a ratio kept up between the general revenues of the State and the wealth of the people. I have not been able to get at the total wealth of our country and the average income of our people. I am not sure whether the Government themselves are in possession of figures as to the extent of our national wealth. The revenues of a flourishing State are in proportion to the wealth of its people. This is possible where the growth of the national wealth is more rapid than the growth of the people. In such countries, the State coffers are full to the brim. In our country, during the last 10 years, as has been pointed out in the budget speech of the Financial Secretary, the Sate revenues rose from Rs. 138 lakhs in 1087 to Rs. 195 lakhs in 1096 or by 41 per cent., whereas the population increased only by about 16 per cent.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

The revenues of the State have grown much more rapidly than the population whose growth too was more rapid than the growth of the national wealth. The result is that the average income of the individual is much reduced by the number of people who have to share it; and this reduced income is further burdened by the increased taxation.

The total revenue for the year 1096 was Rs. 195 lakhs. The population of our country according to the census of 1921 is 40 lakhs. Working out these figures, one finds that the average revenue per head is Rs.4-as.12-p.6. Though this figure is not very high in itself, the proportion of this to the average income of a Travancorean is higher than what exists elsewhere. I venture to think that we have reached the limit of taxation. Unless and until the Government can show the growth of national wealth by the side of the growth of State revenue and convince us that there is a reasonable margin between the two, one cannot fairly be a party to any proposal for further taxation of the people.

With this general observation, may I be permitted to refer in a general way to some items in the budget? In the Ayacut Settlement of the olden days, lands were divided into several classes according to their productive capacity. I do not think this system of classification is kept up now in taxing new lands. All lands in a locality, whether good or bad, are taxed at the same rate. Along with other things, this has acted as a deterrent in inducing the people to go in for new lands.

It is seen from the budget that there was a decline in the demand for land and this accounts for a shortage of Rs. 1,48,600 in land revenue during 1097. This decline is also due to the hard Puduval Rules which acted as a second cause in preventing the people from applying for lands. This is also seen in the auction sales of *puduval* lands according to the new Puduval Rules. I myself am aware of many survey numbers of lands advertised for sale, but left undisposed of owing to the high minimum rate of *tharavila* fixed by the rules or authorities.

Unless the Puduval Rules are amended and worked in the best interests of the people, I doubt very much whether the expected increase under this head during 1098 will ever come in.

The revenue from forests can be increased only if proper attention is paid to working them according to a well-thought-out plan. I fear that our forests are not worked according to any scientific or carefully prepared plan. A certain figure was given as the expected revenue and trees were cut down either by Government agency or by contractors and brought to the depôts. As the traiff rates were unreasonably enhanced of late, Government had to sell timber to *bona fide* local purchasers at a reduced rate. Still there is a very large quantity of timber at the depôts which is now advertised for sale. For bringing in some revenue, this has to be sold away at any cost. Rich timber merchants thus knock off large quantities at a nominal price. This system not only depletes our forests,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

but all the income we can get from this source is not realised, as timber has to be sold in a hurry.

The next thing to which attention has to be directed is that new sources of income should be found and tapped. The State should launch on schemes which, in addition to increasing the material comforts of the people, would be a source of permanent income to Government. But these schemes of an income-yielding nature should be worked within our State itself, and not in a neighbouring State; it is only then that it can benefit our people. We are glad that the present administration is keen on this subject and has taken up several schemes for consideration. I wish to refer only to one of these schemes, *viz.*, the extension of railways to Alwaye, to Nagercoil, and to the Hills. It is nearing two years since the Dewan announced in the Popular Assembly that the railway line would be extended to Nagercoil. But the first sod has not been turned up as yet. There is no national debt worth the name weighing heavily on our country. There are crores of rupees hoarded up in several temples which can be taken on loan. I would, therefore, request that the Government be pleased to take up the extension of the Shencottah-Quilon railway line to Alwaye, as it will stimulate production, develop trade, and bring good profits to the State. I have also to point out that we are now losing the duty on tea. The tea produced in the High Range Division is carried by carts and railways and exported from Madras, Negapatam and Tuticorin. If a line is opened from the Hills into the plains and the tea produced is exported from Alleppey, the whole of the duty thereon can be appropriated by our country. May I hope, Sir, that further delay will be avoided in this important matter and that you will have the happiness to see the extension of the railway from one end of the country to the other?

In this connection, I want this House to consider what control our Government have at present on the management and accounts of the State Railways, whether the Government can regulate the income and expenditure of our branch of the line, and whether by a careful management we could not increase our revenue from this source.

My next observation is regarding the expenditure side. To steer the finances of a country clear of the rocks of bankruptcy, careful watch has to be kept over its expenditure also. Anti-waste movements and retrenchments are but the order of the day. In spite of the loud talk on these matters, let us frankly ask how much waste is prevented and how much retrenchment is effected. Are there not still items of wasteful expenditure which can be checked or stopped or which can be curtailed without reducing the efficiency of the administration? Very heavy expenditure is going to be incurred as the result of the reorganisation of the Revenue Department. Instead of the revenue officers who looked after revenue, Devaswom, magisterial and maramat affairs, we are going to have an army of men separately for each of these departments. Of course, I am aware of the greater efficiency which may be secured by separating these functions. But my doubt is whether such a large number of officers is required and whether the same efficiency cannot be secured with a smaller number.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

In the budget, provision is made for Assistant Tahsildars and Income Tax Inspectors both of which posts were created lately. These, I feel, simply add to the expenditure without in any way increasing efficiency of work. In other departments too, such as the Police, Excise, and the Devaswom, there are several unnecessary high appointments. These also may be reduced in number. The pruning knife could have been more sharply and economically applied to these departments.

The pay of the upper ranks of the service has been increased in spite of repeated public cries against it; but that of the lower has not been proportionately enhanced. The system of appointing Personal Assistants is simply a wasteful one; and it can be given up without in any way impairing efficiency. The travelling allowance given to an officer should in no case be an additional means to him of saving money, but should only be just enough for defraying the actual expenses incurred. In several cases, the allowances proposed in the budget for travelling could be reduced. There are various cases also where local allowance, personal allowance, horse allowance, cycle allowance, duty allowance, ordinary allowance, house-rent allowance, and tour charges are given. These also could be considerably reduced, if not entirely omitted.

In the P. W. D section of the budget, one of the many noteworthy points may be referred to. The opening of new roads is one of great importance to agriculturists, as they are the means of developing trade and industry. For opening new roads of such vital importance, a small sum of Rs. 34,500 alone is allotted; but, out of this, Rs 30,000 is for a road from Devicolam to Kumili. With the remaining Rs. 4,500 three new roads in the other parts of the State are proposed to be opened. Again, for completing the roads already begun, a small sum af Rs. 51,736 is also proposed, nearly the whole of which amount is to be spent at the northern end of the northern Division. While the total budgeted amount for the department is above Rs. 26 lakhs, the proportion of the money to be spent upon roads is really striking.

Another most important and regrettable feature of the budget is the striking disproportion which the single item for the salaries and allowances of officers bears to the budgeted total expenditure. The total expenditure is Rs. 196 lakhs, out of which the salaries and allowances of officers are found to swallow up the monstrous amount of above Rs. 80 lakhs, or 44 per cent. It is no wonder that such a condition of affairs cannot leave anything more either for works of public utility or for a greater balance than the present sum of Rs. 6,500.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Sir, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar has hit the right nail on the head when he said that it is to customs, both exports and imports, that we should largely look for increase in our revenue. I quite agree with him in thinking that there is a great deal of leakage for want of sufficient check and supervision over customs collections in our chowkeys. The increase or fall in the customs revenue depends not only on trade prosperity or depression, but on the honesty or dishonesty of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the officer in charge of the customs house. Mr. Krishna Aiyangar is also right in saying that the terms of the Interportal Convention should be changed. It was, most probably, a generous concession that was made to us in days gone by, when our frontiers were almost unguarded; but times have changed. Trade has gone up by leaps and bounds and it is only in the fitness of things that we should come by our own. The prevailing economic depression is given as one of the two reasons for the expected fall under abkari revenue in the coming year. In the same breath, the Financial Secretary says that the receipts under Customs are exceptionally large this year. Does this not seem to be a contradiction, as the prevailing trade depression must have acted more directly on the customs revenue than on recent abkari contracts? As judged from the slight rise in the price of yarn, the conditions of trade at least under this item are improving, and I cannot understand why Rs. 87,000 should appear as a *minus* quantity under Customs next year.

Coming next to the P W. D. budget, I cannot but say that both under "service and departmental heads" and "works," not only the pruning knife but the Geddes axe has to be freely applied. My full conviction is that half the present staff of engineers, from the highest to the lowest grade, can be done away with, without impairing the services. Most of the roads in Trivandrum existed when I was a boy. That grand building with the magnificent Darbar Hall in the centre, and the Secretariat and the High Court on each side, was built when there was only a supervisor and an overseer under the Chief Engineer to do the work. So also were the Colleges and the Museum built; and I am sure these buildings will not suffer by comparison with the later buildings when a larger number of engineers were brought in.

I cannot help saying that there is a deal of, I would say, sinful waste, in the construction of many of our buildings. They are more ornamental than useful. I can understand architectural designs being given free play to in buildings on the main road or in some important portions in the capital. But efforts at producing spectacular effect should not be made at the sacrifice of utility. In the Vanchiyur School which is built in a hollow, there seems to be more frill than shirt. The St. Joseph's High School which stands not far from this school, and which can probably accommodate as many students as the Vanchiyur School, was, if I am not far wrong, built at about one-tenth the cost About Rs. 3 lakhs have been sanctioned for the High School at Kottar. If Government are flushed with cash, there is no harm in such lavish expenditure. But when many of our schools are held in temporary thatched sheds and when money is required for equally important purposes, and more than all, when the financial outlook is far from bright, I think money should not be wasted in the way it is being done now. There should be a sense of proportion in the construction of public buildings and an equal sense in satisfying the needs in every part of the country. Cement seems to be a sort of fetish in P. W. D. constructions. I can understand cement being used in the construction of piers of bridges but in a country abounding in beautiful timber and in shells for making

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

chunam, cement must be used only when it is absolutely necessary. In reply to Mr. V. J. Joseph, at the last session of the Popular Assembly, you, Sir, with your usual quick grasp of things, made a clear and bold statement that our bridges are far too costly, that cheaper designs must be worked out, that reinforced concrete works are very expensive and that one reason for the present high outlay on P. W. D. works was the unnecessary use of such concrete. Let the dead past bury its dead; and it is hoped that P. W. D. officers will take to heart the instruction given to them by the Head of the Administration. The Karamanai bridge, which was built in days gone by before cement found its way here, is as sound as a bell, and our engineers should find out the secret of its construction.

It was I who recommended to Government improvements to the Alleppey Canal when I was the Port Officer and President of the Town Improvement Committee in Alleppey. Besides the Government landing-ghats, merchants had their own ghats opposite their places of business, and all that was necessary was to keep the canal navigable and clear of weeds which were choking it. This and the other suggestions made by me would have served all practical purposes and probably would not have cost more than Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 50,000. The work was started over ten years ago and probably it may take a few years more to complete it. Meanwhile traffic is blocked in parts of the canal under construction and nothing appears to be done in the way of maintenance of the portion yet to be improved. This, I need hardly say, is causing much inconvenience to merchants. It has probably cost over Rs. 5 lakhs and may cost a few lakhs more when it is completed. When there was a canal which had only to be slightly improved and kept in order, precious money which is required for a thousand and one other things has been wasted on these elaborate improvements.

Coming next to the Shertallai Canal, I have serious misgivings as to its utility. The Chief Engineer tells me that motor and steam boats will not be allowed to go through this canal, and only *vallams* with passengers and cargo will ply through it. It must be stated here that it is only during heavy rains and squalls during the monsoon that cargo boats will use the canal, as these boats, as a rule, are propelled by sails. Those going or coming by the Vembanad Lake hug on to the shore during bad weather. It has also to be stated that there is not much shipping or landing during the monsoon. During dry weather, which is the shipping season, cargo boats will surely give the go-by to the canal. The use of the canal, therefore, narrows itself to the Shertallai taluk itself. The taluk has a sea-board and a back-water board and its produce finds its way out to the back-water by means of little channels that run into it from the interior and also by roads and head-loads. It would appear that a canal was preferred to a road, because road materials are expensive and dear to produce in this taluk and a road may at any time be covered over with sand blown over it during

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the storm. The canal can be of very little use unless there are roads or other canals to feed it. According to the present arrangement a road is also provided by the side of the canal. Is it not possible that this road as well as the canal itself may both be covered over with a sand storm? The scheme is going to cost Rs. 12 lakhs and probably more when everything is said and done. And what about its maintenance? Certainly it must be costly. I think the whole taluk could be run with a network of roads and small channels with this amount. I am not sure whether the Cochin Harbour Scheme had been kept in view when this work was undertaken. In case of railway extension to Cochin *via* Alleppey this canal may almost become useless. When there is the broad sandy track running from Alleppey to Shertallai, I think this track, which is Government land, should have been utilised for a road, a tramway or a light railway, before acquiring land at prohibitive cost, probably to the tune of a few lakhs of rupees, for opening a canal of very doubtful utility.

I quite agree with the members who have spoken before me that we have a plethora of officers in our service and that such high salaries are not necessary for some of the high officers. I have, however, to say a word on behalf of my old department, *viz.*, the Excise Department. It is the department that brings in almost half the State revenue. Its officers have to work day in and day out, in fair weather and in foul, to keep up the revenue. If any department deserves considertion, it is this department. I must, however, say here that the present scheme for re-organising the department is most unsatisfactory. I shall speak on this subject when the motion I have submitted is taken up by the Council. In the face of the temperance, local option and prohibition movements which are in the air, and which may have serious consequences on the excise revenue, a larger policy and a well-thought-out scheme to meet the situation and safeguard our revenue are absolutely necessary; and I beg Government through this Council not to give effect to the scheme till it is put before the Council and till it decides what steps should be taken in the interests of all concerned.

The House then adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M. and re-assembled at 2. 53-P. M.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Sir, ഈ കൌൺസിലിലുള്ള അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥസാമാജികന്മാർക്ക് ബഡ്ജറിനെ പ്പറ്റി നിരൂപണം ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് അനുവാദം നല്കീട്ടുള്ളതു് ഒരു വലുതായ അനുഗ്രഹമാണ്. ഒരു അനുഗ്രഹത്തിനു രണ്ടു പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളും കൂടി അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. അതായതു് ബഡ്ജറു പഠിക്കുന്നതിനു സമയം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അനുവദിച്ച സമയത്തിനകം പഠിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനെ പ്രതിപാദിക്കാൻ സമയമില്ല. ൻ-ലും ൻന്യ-ലും നക്കൽ ബഡ്ജറുകളും മുമ്പുകൂട്ടി മെംബറന്മാർക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ബഡ്ജറുകളും മുമ്പുകൂട്ടി അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥമെംബറന്മാർക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്യാമെന്നു ഗവൺമെൻറു കക്ഷിയുടെ നേതാവു നടന്നു നിയമസഭയിൽ വച്ചു അവിടുന്നു വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള വിവരവും ഇവിടെ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. ഒരു ആണ്ടിൽ ബഡ്ജറു മുമ്പുകൂട്ടി തരുന്നതിനു പലവിധ അസൗകര്യങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. അടുത്ത

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

കവന്ന മുതൽ ഒരം ന്യൂനതയെ പരിഹരിച്ചു കിട്ടുന്നതിലേക്കായി മാത്രം ഒരം സംഗതി ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതാണ്.

ഇപ്പോൾ തയ്യാറാക്കി കിട്ടുന്ന ബഡ്ജറ്റുകളിലും അവയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിലുംനിന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ശരിയായ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളോ ഭരണസ്വയങ്ങളോ അറിയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ബഡ്ജറ്റിലെ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ കാണുന്ന കണക്കുകൾ മാത്രം വിധം വ്യക്തമായി അറിയാൻ സൌകര്യമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ൻന്നു-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് നിയമസഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് അവിടുന്നു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"With improved facilities for shipping and transport and the gradual removal of trade restrictions, business has not only recovered its old footing but has gone distinctly forward and has brought much prosperity in its train, with the result that the year is characterised by a phenomenal activity in company promotion. During the first eleven months of the year, 96 companies have been floated in the State with a total authorised capital of Rs. 3,71,75,000, while, in the corresponding period of 1094, 14 companies with an authorised capital of Rs. 25,40,000 only were floated. What, however, we should particularly note is the readiness with which the people of the State have come forward to subscribe to these new enterprises. Capital is rapidly ceasing to be shy and there is ample evidence also of there being more of it in the State now than before."

അതേ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ മറെറാരു ഭാഗത്തു് ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"Expansion of trade and increased business activities to which reference has already been made and the larger purchasing power of the people have resulted in better revenue receipts under Customs, Stamps, Registration and Excise."

1098-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് കൌൺസിലിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങിനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"The only direction in which the revenue shows any substantial improvement is Customs, which is expected to yield Rs. 3½ lakhs in excess of anticipation. The improvement is almost entirely under export duty and indicates an expansion in the export of our local produce."

അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ മറെറാരു ഭാഗത്തു് ഇങ്ങനെപറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"*Puduval* and survey operations had advanced sufficiently and lands were available for registry in an ample measure, but owing to the present trade depression and the prevailing great scarcity of money there has been very little demand for land. Similarly, economic depression accounts for the fall in Excise and Registration Revenue."

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൯൪-ലും ൯൫-ലും കസ്റ്റംസ്, സ്റ്റാമ്പ്, രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ, എക്സൈസ്, ഈ ഇനങ്ങളിലെ വരവു അധികരിച്ചുകണ്ടതിനാൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ധാരാളം പണമുണ്ടെന്നും, ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടുവോളം ധനശേഷിയുണ്ടെന്നും ആ കാലത്തു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു അനുമാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ൯൬-ൽ കസ്റ്റംസ് ഡ്യൂട്ടീസ്സ് എന്ന ഇനത്തിൽ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരുന്ന തുകയിൽ നിന്നു ൧൰ലക്ഷം രൂപാ കൂടുതലായി കിട്ടിയിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നിരുന്നിട്ടും, എക്സൈസ്, രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഇവയിലെ കുറവു കച്ചവടത്തിൻെറ മാന്ദ്യംകൊണ്ടും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ധനശേഷിയുടെ കുറവുകൊണ്ടും ആണെന്നു ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ കാണുന്നു. ൯൫-ലും ൯൬-ലും ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ധനശേഷിയിൽ നിന്നു ൯൭-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ഇത്ര വളരെമാറ്റം വന്നുപോയതു് എങ്ങനെയാണെന്നുള്ളതു അറിയാൻ തരമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഭരണതത്വങ്ങളിലുള്ള ഈ അഭിപ്രായഭേദങ്ങളെ തിരിച്ചറിയാൻ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ശക്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവിൽ കുറവു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാഇനങ്ങളിലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനശേഷിയുടെ കുറവിനെയാണു് സമാധാനമായി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലെയും ബഡ്ജറു തയ്യാറാക്കുമ്പോൾ ഓരേ സംഗതിക്കു പലേ അവസരങ്ങളിലും പലേ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളും പറഞ്ഞു കാണുന്നതു ഇവിടെ സാധാരണമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ഓരോ അഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പലേ തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണകൾക്കും വഴിയായി തീരുന്നതാണു്. ഓരോ സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ഉത്പിതിയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. (ഉദാഹരണം, പുതുവൽ പതിവു്.) ഓരോസംഗതിയിലും ശരിയായ കാരണങ്ങൾ പുറഞ്ഞു ജനങ്ങളെ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതു ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ സഹകരണത്തിനു വേണ്ടുവോളം സഹായിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ൧൯൨൭-ൽ ബജനാവിലെ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു് ൨൦,൭൨,൪൦൦ രൂപയായിട്ടാണു് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതിൽ മൂന്നും മൂന്നരയും പലിശയുള്ള കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പണത്തിൻെറ അനുപാതത്തുകയാണു് കണക്കാക്കിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതുകളിപ്പോൾ കിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നു ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നു കാണുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ കിട്ടാത്തതായും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായുമുള്ള തുകകളെ കൂടി കണക്കാക്കി ബജനാവിലെ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പായി കാണിക്കുന്നതു് അപകടമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു പൂർണ്ണവിശ്വാസമുള്ള തുകകൾ മാത്രമെ ഓരോ ഇനത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്താൻ പാടുള്ളു. അല്ലാതെ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള തുകകൾ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പായി കണക്കാക്കുകയും അതിനെ വിശ്വസിച്ചു രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ വഴിച്ചു വരുന്ന ചിലവുകളെ തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ മൈസൂർ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ചിലവുനീതിയിൽ നാമും എത്തി കുഴങ്ങേണ്ടി വരുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണു്.

൧൯൨൭-ലെ ബഡ്ജറു പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ പ്രധാനമായി കാണുന്നതു രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരവിൽ നിന്നും ചിലവു ന്യായമായി നിവൃത്തിയില്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ൧൯൨൬-ൽ ൨,൫൯,൭൦൦ രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു നിശ്ചയിച്ചു തയ്യാറാക്കിയതുന്ന ബഡ്ജറിൻെറ അവസാനഫലം ൧,൪൭,൫൫,൫൫൪ രൂപാ അധികചിലവായി പരിണമിക്കയാണു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ൧൯൨൭-ൽ ൩,൩൭,൪൦൦ രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു് ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരുന്നതു പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൽ ൪,൪൦൦ രൂപയായി കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൯൨൮-ലെ ബഡ്ജറു തയ്യാറാക്കിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ൩,൪൦൦ രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വരുമെന്നു കണക്കാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. രണ്ടുകോടി രൂപായോളം വരവുള്ള ഈ രാജ്യത്തു൯൭-ലും ൯൮-ലും നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുകളായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവയ്ക്കു് ആ നിലയിൽ നിൽക്കാൻ എത്രത്തോളം ശക്തിയുണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതു് എല്ലാവക്കും ബോദ്ധ്യമുള്ളതാണു്. ൯൭-ലും ൯൮-ലും വരവിനെ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവുണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള പൊതുജനാഭിപ്രായത്തിനു തെറ്റുണ്ടായി വരുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വരവുചിലവുകളുടെ സ്ഥിതി ഒരിക്കലും ശുഭകരമായിരിക്കുമെന്നുതോന്നുന്നില്ല.

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്ന ചിലവുകൾ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതിയെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടപോലെ ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന വഴികളിലുള്ള ചിലവുകളാണോ, reproductive ചിലകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായുള്ള ചിലവുകളാണോ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണെങ്കിൽ അവയെ അനുമോദിക്കയും ബഹുമാനിക്കയും ചെയ്യാവുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള സമാധാനത്തിന് ഇവിടെ തൃപ്തികരമായ വഴിയുണ്ടോ എന്നുള്ളതു സംശയമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ വരവു ചിലവുകൾ ഈ വിഷമഘട്ടത്തിൽ എത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു കാരണം ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയും ആഡിറ്റർ ആപ്പീസറും ഒന്നായിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. ഈ രണ്ട് ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും ഒരിക്കലും ഒന്നായിരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. മരാമത്തു വകുപ്പിലെ മേധാവിയായി വ്യവസ്ഥപ്പെടുത്തിൽ ഒരു എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയരെ നിയമിക്കാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് കണ്ടതായ കാരണങ്ങളെക്കാൾ എത്രയോ ശക്തിമത്തായ കാരണങ്ങൾ ഒരു ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയെ നിയമിക്കാനുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. ഈ സംഗതി പ്രജാസഭയിൽ എത്രയോ കാലമായി പ്രതിപാദിച്ചു വരുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഈ നിയമനത്തിൽ അധികച്ചിലവിനു വഴിയില്ലാതെ സാധിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്.

൧൯൨൫ൽ ൪ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരവും, ൧൯൨൬ൽ ൫ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരവും, ൧൯൨൭ൽ ൬ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരവും തുപ്പാനീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വയ്ക്കാൻ ഇടയായി. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് അത്യാവശ്യമായ പൊതുമരാമത്തു മുതലായ പലേ വഴികളിലുമുള്ള ചിലവുകളെ കുറച്ചിട്ടാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിട്ടുള്ളതെന്ന് ആർക്കും നിഷ്പ്രയാസം അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുകൾ മറ്റു വഴികളിലുള്ള രാജ്യത്തിലെ ചിലവുകളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ ഒരു പ്രേരണമാത്രമായിതീർന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിലെവരവു ചിലവുകൾ ജനങ്ങളാൽ നിയന്ത്രിക്കപ്പെടാൻ അവകാശമില്ലാത്ത എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഇങ്ങിനെ വന്നുകൂടുന്നതു സഹജമാണ്.

ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണരീതിയിൽ ചിലവുകൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനു പലേ കാരണങ്ങളും കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ചില പ്രധാനസംഗതികളെ ഇവിടെ അറിയിക്കാം.

(൧) സ്ഥിരമായും, താൽകാലികമായും, ഉള്ള വരവുകളെ തിരിച്ചു വയ്ക്കാതെ, ഒന്നായി കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു സ്ഥിരമായ വരവിനെമാത്രം കണക്കാക്കി ചിലവുകളെ നിശ്ചയിക്കായ്ക;

(൨) ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഇറിഗേഷൻ മരാമത്തു, ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ, ഇവയ്ക്കു വരവിന്റെ ന്യായമായ ഓഹരി ചിലവാക്കാതിരിക്കുക;

(൩) ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മരാമത്തിലെ അനാവശ്യവ്യയം ന്യായമായും മിതമായും ചിലവാക്കാതെയിരിക്കുക;

(൪) രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അനുരൂപമായവിധം വ്യവസായവർദ്ധനയ്ക്കു പൊതുമുതൽ ചിലവാക്കാതിരിക്കുക;

(൫) രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ധനശക്തിയെ ഗണിക്കാതെ വലിയവേലകളിൽ ചുമതല വഹിക്കുക;

(൬) ഭരണച്ചിലവുകളെ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുക.

ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പലേ കാരണങ്ങളാലും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ചിലവ് ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും വരവിനെ അതിശയിച്ചു നില്ക്കുന്നതിനു തരമുള്ള. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ വരവിനെ കവിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചിലവുകളെ താങ്ങുന്നതിനു നികുതിവർദ്ധനമാത്രമേ ഒരു പ്രധാനവഴിയായി കാണുന്നുള്ളു. ഒരാണ്ടിൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന അധികച്ചിലവുകളെ സാധിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി നികുതി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായാൽ അടുത്ത ആണ്ടിലും, അതിനടുത്ത ആണ്ടിലും,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

എന്നുവേണ്ടി വരുന്ന ഓരോആണ്ടുകളിലും നികുതിവർദ്ധനയുണ്ടാക്കി ഏങ്കിൽ മാത്രമെ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന അധികച്ചിലവുകളെ നിർവ്വഹിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു എന്നു വരുന്നതാണ്.

മറ്റു പരിഷ്കൃതരാജ്യങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം ഈ രാജ്യവും പരിഷ്കാരനിലയിൽ എത്തേണമെന്നു സ്വരാജ്യാഭിമാനമുള്ള സകല ജനങ്ങളും ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതിലേക്ക കഴിവുള്ളിടത്തോളം നികുതിഭാരം ചുമത്താനും അവർ തയ്യാറാണെന്നുള്ള വിവരം ചുവടെ വിവരിക്കുന്ന കണക്കുകൾ തെളിയിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

കൊല്ലം	മുതലെടുപ്പു രൂപാ
ക ൦ ൯ ൦	൫൫, ൦ ൫, ന്നു ൯.
ക ൦ ൯ ൪	ൻ൯, ൫ ക. ൯ ൫.
ക ൦ ൫ ൦	൯൫. ൻ൫, ൫൫ ൪.
ക ൦ ൫ ൪	ക, ൬ ക, ൦ ന, ക്കന.
ക ൦ ൻ ൦	ക, ൫ ൻ, ക ൫, ൻ൫ ൯.
ക ൦ ൻ ൪	ക, ൫ ൪, ൫ ൯, ൻ൬ ൦.
ക ൦ ൻ ൯	ക, ൻ ൦, ന്നക, ൫ ൦ ൦.

ക ൦ ൯ ൦-മുതൽ ക ൦ ൻ ൦-വരെ ൬ ൦ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവിൽ ന്നു ക, ൦ ന്നു, ന്നു ൬ ൦ രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ക ൦ ൻ ൦-മുതൽ ക ൦ ൻ ൯ വരെ ൯ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ ൫ ക, ൫ ന്നു, ൫൫ കന രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഈ നികുതിവർദ്ധനയോടുകൂടിയ ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക ആഹാരം കഴിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന് ആണ്ടുതോറും രണ്ടുകോടിയിൽപരം രൂപാവിലയുള്ള അരിയും നെല്ലും വരുത്തേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന അസംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളിൽ ന്നര കോടിയിൽ പരം രൂപാ വിലയുള്ളവയെ വിദേശീയർക്കുവനികളുടെ ആദായത്തിന് അയയ്ക്കയല്ലാതെ ഗത്യന്തരമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനും പുറമെ ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നിർവഹിക്കുന്നതിനു സംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങൾക്കായി ൫ കോടിയിൽ പരം രൂപാ വിദേശീയർക്ക കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഇങ്ങനെ ജീവിതകാലം നയിച്ചുപോരുന്ന ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളിൽ വീണ്ടും നികുതിഭാരം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതി അറിയേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിലേക്കായുള്ള ഒരു പര്യവേക്ഷണം നടത്തേണ്ട സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ൻന്നു മുമ്പു വന്നുപോയ നിയമസഭയിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ. രാമൻതമ്പി ചോദിച്ചതിന് അടുത്ത കൊല്ലത്തോടുകൂടി ആയതു നടത്തുന്നതു സൌകര്യമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതുവരെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതിഭാരത്തെ വീണ്ടും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതിരിക്കണമെന്നു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായരഹിതമായി തീരുന്നതല്ല. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല National Industries വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനു വിഷമമോ പ്രതിബന്ധമോ തോന്നാത്തവിധം ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതിഭാരത്തെ ലാഘവപ്പെടുത്തി വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ പ്രത്യേകകടമയാണെന്നു കൂടി ഇവിടെ പറയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു.

രാജ്യത്തിലെ ചിലവു ൻ൫-നെക്കാൾ ൻ൪-ൽ ക്കന ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപായായും ൻന്നു-ൽ ൬ ൦ ലക്ഷത്തോളമായും, ൻ൯-ൽ ന്നര ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരമായും, ൻ൭-ൽ ൫ ലക്ഷത്തോളമായും വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

ക ൦ ൻന്നു ലേക്കുള്ള ബഡ്ജറ്റു നിയമസഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ അവിടത്തെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"They feel, for instance, that they should do something to relieve the hard lot of the low-paid Government servants to whom relief has not been given, that the P. W. D. should be enabled to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

spend more on communications and urgent buildings, that the departments of Industries and Agriculture should be further developed and that certain services should be reorganised to promote efficiency, and they are determined to devote more money for these purposes, should they fortunately find themselves financially in a position to do so.

൧൯-ലെ മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ നിന്ന് ൧൯൨൪-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൯ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ വഛിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ, ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മരാമത്തിലെ അനുവാദരൂപാ, ൪,൦൦,൦൦൦ രൂപായായി കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിൽ വരവു വഛിക്കുതോറും പൊതുമരാമത്തിലെ ചിലവു വഛിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ടതു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക് അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. മറ്റുവിധമായുള്ള ചിലവുകൾക്കു പണം കുറവു വരുമ്പോൾ അതിനെ സാധിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇഞ്ചിനീയർവകുപ്പിലെ അനുവാദ രൂപായെ വെട്ടിക്കുറയ്ക്കുന്ന പതിവ് ഇവിടെ സർവ്വസാധാരണമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു.

കഴിഞ്ഞകോടി രൂപായോളം വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ൧൯൨൦-ൽ ൫൪ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപാ പൊതുമരാമത്തിലേക്കു ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ആയുക ൧൯൨൧-വരെ കുഞ്ഞുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളൂ. ൧൯൨൪ മുതൽ വീണ്ടും വഛിച്ചു ൧൯൨൯-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൫൮ ലക്ഷത്തോളം രൂപയായി തീർന്നു. നിർഭാഗ്യവശാൽ ൧൯൩൦ മുതൽ വലുതായ കുറവു തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കുറവു പുതിനമായ ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിലും കെട്ടിടങ്ങളിലുമാണ് ഉണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു്. Original Communications എന്നുള്ളതിൽ ൯൭-ൽ നിന്നും ൯൬-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൫,൫൯,൦൬൪ രൂപാ കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. Original buildings എന്നുള്ളതിൽ ൯൭-ൽ നിന്നും ൯൬-ൽ ൨,൯൬,൫൦൦ രൂപാ കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. പുതിനമായ ഗതാഗതങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇത്രവലുതായ സംഖ്യ കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എങ്കിലും ൯൬-ലെ detailed budget ൽ ക്രമ൦-൨൦ നമ്പർ വേലയ്ക്ക് അടങ്കൽ നിശ്ചയിച്ചു് ആകുന്നുക നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പെതന്നെ ൫,൦൦൦ രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ക്രമ൪൭-൨൦ നമ്പർ വേലയ്ക്കു ൫൨,൫൫൦ രൂപാ അടങ്കൽ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു എങ്കിലും ൯൭-ലും ൯൮-ലും ൫൪,൯൫൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കുകയും, ൯൬-ലേക്കു ൪,൦൦൦ രൂപാ വീണ്ടും അനുവദിക്കയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു.

ശ്രീമൂലംപ്രജാസഭയിൽ അനേകകാലമായി നിലവിളി കൂട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അനേകം റോഡുകളുടേയും ഈ റോഡുകളുടേയും അത്യാവശ്യങ്ങളെ താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു മനോവേദനയുണ്ടാകാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേയ്ക്കു൯൨൭-൯൮ൽ ൫,൭൫,൯൪൫ രൂപായായിരുന്നതു ൯൬-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൬,൯൬,൫൦൦ രൂപായാക്കി വഛിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കരുണയ്ക്കു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനോടു ഞങ്ങൾ നന്ദിയുള്ളവരായിരിക്കുന്നു.

കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ പ്രധാനലക്ഷ്യം രാജ്യത്തിൽ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾ വഛിച്ചുകിട്ടുന്നതിലാണ്; വിശേഷിച്ചും നെൽകൃഷി വഛിച്ചുകിട്ടുന്നതിലാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കൃഷിക്കാരെ ഉപദേശിക്കാനും മാതൃകാകൃഷിത്തോട്ടങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ട് അവരെകാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാനും മാത്രമെ സാധിക്കയുള്ളൂ. ൫൦൦ ഏക്കർ വരെയുള്ള കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങളെ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷണിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ മിക്കവാറും കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇത്ര പ്രധാനമായിരിക്കുന്ന മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾക്കായുള്ള ഇവിടത്തെ ചിലവു തീരെ തൃപ്തികരമായിട്ടല്ല നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്നതു്. പുതിനമായ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

വേലകഠിക്ക ക ഠ ൻന്വ-ൽ ക്നു, ൭ ൫ ക രൂപായും ക ഠ ൻ ൭-ൽ പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൽ ര ഠ, ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപായും ചിലവാക്കുകയും, ക ഠ ൻ വ-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൫ ഠ, ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപാ അനുവദിക്കയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷണുവേണ്ടിട്ടുള്ള ചിലവു തീരെ മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. കോതയാർവെള്ളംകിട്ടാത്തതായ തെക്കൻഡിവിഷണിലും, നെയ്യാറിൻകര, തിരുവനന്തപുരം ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിലും ഉള്ള കൃഷിയും അതിനാൽ വരുന്ന കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ നഷ്ടവും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു സൂക്ഷ്മമായി അറിവുകിട്ടാൻ ഇടയാകുന്നപക്ഷം മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൺവേലകഠിക്ക നിശ്ചയമായും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു കൂടുതൽപണം അനുവദിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അതിനുള്ള വഴി കൃഷിക്കാക്കു അറിയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതേ അവർ വിഷമിക്കയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്.

Detailed budget—ൽ ക ക്നു-ാംനമ്പർ വേലയായ "Proposed Kumili-Devicolam cart road--portion from Devicolam to Periacanal" എന്നുള്ള വേലയ്ക്കു ൻവു—ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ നു ഠ, ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ക ഛ നു-ാം നമ്പർ വേലയായ "Improving the Church Hill road" വേലയ്ക്കു ൫, ക ര ഠ രൂപായാണ് അടങ്കലെങ്കിലും ൻ ൭—ൽ ൭, ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കയും ൻവു-ലേക്കു ക ഠ, ഠ ഠ ഠ രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു കൃഷിദോഷത്താൽ അനേകലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളെ അവരുടെ ഓരിദ്ധത്തിൽ നിന്നും രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും രാജ്യത്തിൽ നെല്ലുവിളവിനെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുമായി മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൺ വേലകഠിക്കായി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വരവിൽനിന്നു് ഒരു ഗണ്യമായ തുക അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യവും ശുചീകരണവും ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനും അവരുടെ ഐശ്വര്യത്തിനും എത്രയോ അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു് എല്ലാ പരിഷ്കൃതഗവർണ്മെൻറുകളും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണു്; എന്നുതന്നെയല്ല, പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യത്തേയും അതിലേക്കു് ആവശ്യമുള്ള ശുചീകരണത്തേയുമാണു് രാജ്യത്തിലെ പൊതുമുതൽ പ്രധാനമായി അഹ്നിക്കുന്നതെന്നുള്ള രേഖതത്വം ഒരിക്കലും വിസ്മരിക്കത്തക്കതല്ലാ. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതി എങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു നോക്കാം.

ക ഠ ൭ ഠ-ൽ, അതായതു് ക ൭ വർഷങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പെയാണു് ഇവിടെ സാനിട്ടറിവകുപ്പു നിർമ്മിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ആ കാലത്തു സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരുന്ന ജോലികഠം (ക) ജനനമരണക്കണക്കുശേഖരിച്ചു തയാറാക്കുക, (ഛ) ഗോവസൂരിപ്രയോഗംനടത്തുക, (നു) രാജ്യത്തിൽ നഗരശുചീകരണക്കമ്മറിക്കഠം ഇല്ലാത്ത മറുഭാഗങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം ശുചീകരണത്തെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിച്ചു വേണ്ടതു നടത്തുക, (ന) ജനങ്ങളുടെ പൊതുവേയുള്ള ആരോഗ്യസ്ഥിതിയെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിച്ചു് റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്യുക, (ഭ) ഉൾനാടുകളിലെ ഓരോ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലെ വീട്ടുനടകളിലെന്നപോലെ വൈദ്യസഹായം എത്തിക്കുക, ഇവയാകുന്നു.

സാനിട്ടറിവകുപ്പിലെ ഈ ജോലികഠം ക്രമേണ കുറഞ്ഞു് ക ഠ വ ഠ-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ വിഷൂചിക, മലമ്പനി ഇവയെമാത്രം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സക്കീട്ടുകളിൽ ചികിത്സിച്ചാൽ മതിയെന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. അതിൽപിന്നീടു് അവരുടെ ജോലി മിക്കവാറും ജനനമരണക്കണക്കുകളെടുക്കുക, ഗോവസൂരിപ്രയോഗം നടത്തുക എന്നായിത്തീർന്നു. ചുരുക്കിപ്പറയുന്നതായാൽ, സാനിട്ടറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാക്കു് ഇടക്കാലംമുതൽ കരുതിട്ടുള്ള ജോലി രോഗങ്ങളെ തടുക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടതു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുണമെന്നു മാത്രമെയുള്ളു. അതും ഇപ്പോൾ വേണ്ടപോലെ നടന്നുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നാണു് കാണുന്നതു്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ജനങ്ങൾ കുടിക്കുന്നതിനുപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്ന വെള്ളത്തെ കളിച്ചും മറ്റുവിധത്തിലും മലിനപ്പെടുത്താൻ പാടില്ലെന്ന സാനിട്ടറികമ്മിഷണർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ അതിനു വിരോധമില്ലെന്ന് റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ തട്ടിക്കൂട്ടുന്നു. ആ അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് ഗവർൺമെൻറ് ചേരുകയും, വിദഗ്ദ്ധാഭിപ്രായത്തിനു വിലയില്ലാതാകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ കാണാവുണ്ട്. ഇതിൻറെയെല്ലാം ഫലമായിത്തീരുന്നതു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പകർച്ചവ്യാധികൾ ഉണ്ടാകുകയും മരുന്നുകൾ കിട്ടാതേയും കുടിക്കാതേയും മരിക്കുന്നതിനു ഇടയാവുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാകുന്നു. സാനിട്ടറിവകുപ്പിലെ ചിലവു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യരക്ഷയ്ക്കു തീരെ മതിയാകാത്തനിലയിലാണ് നടത്തിവരുന്നതെന്നുള്ള വിവരം മുമ്പുതന്നെ വിവരിക്കുന്ന കണക്കുകൾ തെളിയിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

സാനിട്ടറി വകുപ്പ് ഉത്ഭവിച്ച കാലമായ ൧൯൦൯-ൽ വ്യ-൦വ്,ന്നതു ൫൦൦൦ രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ അതിലേക്കു ൨൫,൪൫൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൯൨൦-ൽ ൯൫,൯൭,൫൫൦ രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ൫൦,൩൨൫ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൯൩൦-ൽ ൧,൫൯,൯൭൫ രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ൭൩,൫൭൫ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൯൪൦-ൽ ൧,൭൯,൫൭൫ രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ൯൫,൭൫൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൯൫൦-ൽ ൨,൫൯,൭൫൦ രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ൧൭൫,൦൦൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൯൫൭-ൽ സാനിട്ടറി വകുപ്പിലെക്ക് അനുവാദം ൯൭,൫൦൦ രൂപായായി ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കുറയുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

൧൯൨൭-മുതൽ ൧൯൩൫ വരെ ൮ വ്യവർഷങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവിൽ ൨,൫൭,൪൮,൫൮൨ രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചു വന്നപ്പോൾ സാനിട്ടറി വകുപ്പിലെക്കു ൪൭,൪൫൮ രൂപായാണ് ചിലവിൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

ഈ കണക്കുകൾകൊണ്ടു പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യത്തെ വേണ്ടപോലെ പരിരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു പൊതുമുതലിൽ നിന്നും ന്യായമായി ഒരുതുക ചിലവാക്കി വരുന്നില്ലെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ സാധൂകരിക്കുന്നതിനു പലദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളും ഇവിടെ അറിയിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്

രാജ്യത്തിലെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കുടിക്കുന്നതിനു ശുദ്ധജലമില്ലാതെയുള്ള സങ്കടത്തെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിനാലുണ്ടാകുന്ന പകർച്ചവ്യാധികളെ തടുക്കുന്നതിനുമായി നമ്മുടെ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യഭാരം കൈയേറ്റതുമുതൽക്കാലത്തുതന്നെ അതായതു് ൧൦൧൭-ൽ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും കിണറുകൾ കുഴിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു കല്പിച്ചു് അനുവദിക്കയും ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും ഇതിലേക്ക് ഒരു സ്ഥിരമായതുക ചിലവാക്കണമെന്നു് വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്കയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ആകാലത്തു് കുഴിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളകിണറുകൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് എത്രത്തോളം നന്മയെ ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കാവുന്നതല്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു എത്രയോ ഉപകാരപ്രദമായ ഈ കിണറുകൾക്കു യാതൊരു അറ്റകുറ്റവേലകളും ചെയ്യിക്കാതെയുള്ള ഇന്നത്തെ അനാഥസ്ഥിതി കണ്ടുതന്നെ അറിയേണ്ടതാണ്. കിണറുകൾകുഴിപ്പിക്കുന്നസംഗതി ഇടക്കാലത്തുഇല്ലാതെയായി. അതിൽ പിന്നീടു് ഇംഗ്ലീഷുവർഷം ൧൯൨൯ ജൂൺ വരെ-൯൦൭൯ വ.എ- നമ്പരായി മുൻ ഫ്ലർപ്പാടിനെ പുനർജീവിപ്പിച്ചു് ഒരുപ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സ് ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നല്ലാതെ ആയതു് ഇതുവരെ പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ വരാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടില്ല.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യരക്ഷയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ശുദ്ധജലത്തിന്റെ കിണറുകഴിപ്പിക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ മൈസൂർഗവർൺമെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഇപ്പോൾ മാത്രമേ പതിഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് നാം കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ കരുണയോടുകൂടിയ ശ്രദ്ധപതിയാൻ ഇടയായി എങ്കിലും അതിൽപിന്നീടുള്ള ഭരണകർത്താക്കന്മാരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ വേണ്ടപോലെ പതിയാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി ഇംഗ്ലീഷു വർഷം ക്രൗ൦൭-ലെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ഉത്തരവിനെ വീണ്ടും പുനർജീവിപ്പിക്കയും അതിൽ നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളപ്രകാരം സാനിട്ടറികമ്മിഷണക്കു പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യരക്ഷയിലുള്ള ചുമതല ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെക്കൊണ്ടു വഹിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്തേണ്ടതാണ്.

ചന്തകളും കടകളും ലേലം വിളിച്ചുവകയിൽ ക്രൗ൦൭—ലെ പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൽ പ്രകാരം ൪൪,൦൦൦ രൂപാകിട്ടുമെന്നു കാണുന്നു. ക്രൗ൦൮-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൨൪,൦൦൦ സങ്കല്പിക്കയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ലക്ഷോപലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾ കൊതുമാറുന്നതും പകച്ചു വ്യാധികൾക്കു സങ്കേതമായിരിക്കുന്നതുമായ ചന്തകളിലെ വേലകൾക്കുൻ൭-ൽ ക്രൗ൦,൦൦൦ രൂപായും ൯൮-ൽ ക്രൗ൧,൦൦൦ രൂപായുമാണു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് ആരോഗ്യരക്ഷയ്ക്കുയോഗ്യമായിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം കടകളേയും ചന്തകളേയും നന്നാക്കിയതിൽ പിന്നീടല്ലാതെ ആവകപ്പണത്തെ പൊതുമുതലിൽ ചേർത്തു് ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണു്. ഈ സംഗതിയിലുള്ള മേൽപരിശോധന സാനിട്ടറികമ്മിഷണക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ആകെ വരവിൽ എത്രയിലൊരു അംശമാണു് ഭരണച്ചിലവുകൾക്കു വിനിയോഗിക്കേണ്ടതെന്നുള്ള കണക്കു ഇവിടെ ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. അടുത്തകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് ദിവാൻജിഉദ്യോഗം വഹിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാ മാന്യന്മാരും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഒരു ദിവാൻജിയുടെ കാലത്തു് പോലീസുവകുപ്പിൽ സർക്കിൾ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു; അടുത്ത ദിവാൻജി അതുവേണ്ടെന്നുവച്ചു. ഇപ്പോൾ അസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരെ പുതുതായി ഉണ്ടാക്കി. എക്സൈസ്വകുപ്പിൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിനെവേണ്ടെന്നുവെച്ചു, ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെയാക്കി. ഇപ്പോൾവീണ്ടും അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർവേണമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. എക്സൈസ്വകുപ്പിൽ ശിപായിമാരാണ് കൂട്ടൽവേണ്ടതെന്ന് ഒരാൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. അതല്ല, അവരെ കുറച്ചിട്ട് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെയാണ് വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതെന്നു ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഏതായാലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു രാജ്യത്തിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ അതിരറ്റനിലയിൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ൯൭-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള അവിടത്തെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഇങ്ങിനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"Government have not lost sight of the importance of closely scrutinising the strength and the cost of the several departments of the State and effecting retrenchments wherever possible."

ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി സാലറികമ്മറ്റിക്കാരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"The question of retrenchment is one that should be specially tackled, and it is desirable to once for all set at rest the popular complaint that several departments and offices are overstaffed and that the cost of working the machinery of administration is becoming excessive."

ഈ അഭിപ്രായം എത്രയോ ചിലയുള്ളതും ജനങ്ങൾ ബഹുമാനപൂർവ്വം ആദരിച്ചുവരുന്നതുമാണു്. സാലറികമ്മറ്റിയുടെ ജോലിയുടെ ഫലമായി നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളിൽ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിലുള്ള അധികച്ചിലവുകളെ പരിഹരിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ ആരും സംശയിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു ൯൮-ലെ ചിലവിൽ വലുതായ വ്യത്യാസം ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ല

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[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

നിരുനാലും അതിന്റെ അവസാനഫലം രാജ്യത്തിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ സീമാതീതമായവ്യത്യാസത്തെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ഇന്നത്തെനിലയിൽ ഉടനടികൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ നാടും മൈസൂർ ഗവർമെൻറിനെ അനുകരിക്കേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ ആർക്കും സംശയം തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇതിനിടയാകാതെ ഗവർൺമെൻറുതന്നെ സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Let me begin in the orthodox fashion by complimenting Mr. George on the artistic way in which he has evolved a credit balance out of an apparent deficit budget. He does not seek to hide it himself. I would refer to the observation in his speech in which he tells us in clear terms that, but for a certain accidental situation, certainly the budget would be on the wrong side. That situation has been commented upon by more than one member. I would, therefore, refer to certain other features which require closer consideration.

In the matter of the revenue, with due deference to the Financial Secretary, I cannot but observe that, in certain directions, the revenue forecast has been or is likely to be an exaggeration. The subject of Puduval Rules has already been commented upon. But sometime back when we were realising something like Rs. 3 lakhs or Rs. 4 lakhs out of the sale of Government lands, the State was in a much better position. The finances of the ryots were in a very much better condition a year or two back. We had something like a land fever; speculation was rife; and on that account prices of lands went up like anything. It was then supposed that these assignments of *puduval* lands would be a source of recurring revenue. For the coming year, a sum of Rs. 5,20,000 has been budgeted for as likely to arise out of the assignment of *puduval* lands. People go in for *puduval* only when they have savings to fall back upon. During the financial depression of the past two years, people have exhausted what little savings they had in hand. Agriculturists in North Travancore are living from hand to mouth. I believe I am in a position to assure the House that the present income of the people—at any rate, of North Travancore—is not more than 40 per cent. of what it was two years ago. If then the purchasing power and the producing power of the people have been reduced to that extent, certainly they would not be in a position to go in for *puduvals*, especially under the present rates. I am, I trust, in touch with the ryots of North Travancore and feeling the pulse of the movement. I believe that, without casting any slur upon the figures of Mr. George, I can assure him that, instead of Rs. 5,20,000, he would not get, in the coming year, as much as Rs. 1,20,000. In his position, I would reduce the probable revenue from the assignment of *puduval* lands from Rs. 5,20,000 to Rs. 1,20,000.

The next head under which I fear the forecast is a little bit exaggerated is that of income tax. Mr. George hopes to secure something like Rs. 4,75,000 out of income tax. During 1097 we were able to secure only Rs. 3,50,000. The question of income tax also depends upon the condition of trade and finance. I am making particular reference to North Travancore. The Imperial Bank has begun to restrict advances for the purchase of produce. Many a country bank has come to ruin. Many

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of them have suspended business. So far as the town of Kottayam is concerned, a place which was doing very large trade, with a turnover of 25,000 bags of rice, it does not do business to the extent of 4,000. When trade has come to such a position, when the ordinary banks and even the Imperial Bank do not care to finance trade, it is too much to expect that we shall be able to secure Rs. 4,75,000 from tax on business as Mr. George forecasts. I would, therefore, suggest that, under present conditions, we would not be justified in accepting anything like Rs. 4,75,000 out of income tax as a whole. I would put it at the modest figure of Rs. 3 lakhs. Under present conditions it may be better to err on the safe side and not make extravagant forecasts and build our expenditure on such insecure foundations.

The third head I would advert to is customs. This has been referred to by more than one member as expanding and is likely to expand further. Under this head, a sum of Rs. 23 lakhs has now been budgeted for. This too is more than doubtful. Sir Robert Horne, Chancellor of the Exchequer in England, referring to customs and excise, observes that "a decrease of revenue under these two heads must be estimated," and the grounds he puts forward are that "the savings of the people are gradually getting exhausted and the spending power curtailed." Under present conditions, even such an expert as Sir Robert Horne does not feel justified in making such a very large, I mean an optimistic, forecast under Excise and Customs. No doubt, it will be seen from the figures presented to us that the customs revenue has been expanding. But last year's expansion was abnormal. There were large stocks of pepper and other produce in the hands of the ryots—stocks held up as prices had come down and under the expectation that prices would be going up. When they found that prices were not going up, but were, on the other hand, coming down, as their staying power could not stand long, they dumped the whole thing on the market for anything it would fetch. On that ground, the customs revenue seems to have gone up in 1096 and to a certain extent in 1097 also. If, therefore, we build a forecast on last year's estimate, we may be in error. Owing to the financial stringency and the general state of the European market and the conditions obtaining in Europe, *e. g.*, the practical insolvency of Austria and the Balkan States, the labour difficulty in Italy, with Russia in chaos, Belgium and France still reconstructing and Ireland in a state of civil war, it would be too much to expect that trade would revive in the course of one year or two years. Therefore, under this head of customs, I would reduce the forecast of the Financial Secretary by at least Bh. Rs. 2 lakhs.

The same arguments apply to the revenue under the head of forests. Our local market is not able to absorb an appreciable portion of the timber that we are producing. Foreign markets are also dull and, unless we have an unexpected demand from something like the back-bay reclamation works in Bombay, we shall not be able to sell our timber to advantage. On that ground, I would reduce the forecast under this head by at least Rs. 2 lakhs.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

The next head that appeals to me as necessitating a review is the that of stamps. I make special reference to general stamps. Under the present conditions of the people, we cannot expect large transactions. From the revenue of last year, we find that stamps have gone down to a very great extent and you must expect that stamp revenue will go down still further. Registration goes along with stamps. Under these two heads, bracketed together, you would probably have a deficit of at least Rs. 2 lakhs.

If then we take the heads I referred to, I would put it modestly that the revenue forecast will have to be reduced by Rs 10 to 15 lakhs. It may, therefore, be safer to build our expenditure on a solid foundation, under the expectation that we may not be able to secure more than Rs. 175 or Rs. 180 lakhs on the whole. The expenses budgeted for are out of all proportion to this revenue. As Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai observed, 40 per cent. out of the total revenue of the State is absorbed by the civil service. That, I beg to emphasise, is a large order. British India, and especially the Madras Presidency, have been noted for extravagance or waste in the matter of the civil service. The complaint there is that, out of a revenue of 15 hundred or 16 hundred lakhs, over 8 hundred lakhs is spent on the civil service. There, they have their own reasons. Experts are got down from Europe and paid high and in a spirit of fairness Indians too have to be paid for in proportion. It is not justifiable on our part to imitate or compare our State with British India. British India is well-known as having the costliest civil service in the world. If we compare our country with any other State, say with Japan which is now looked forward to as the model State, we find that the Prime Minister of Japan is only paid something like Rs. 1,500 a month. The salaries of officers have to be in keeping with the standard of living obtaining in the State. If we imitate the Madras Presidency or the rest of India, or Mysore, for the matter of that, and increase the salaries inordinately, we are sure to meet with disaster. It has been a standing complaint in Travancore that the interests of the State have been subordinated to the interests of the service. In the year 1097, I find that 800 and odd new places were created. To give the exact figure, 839 new places were created in 1097. The expenses involved in the creation of these places come to Rs. 7,25,880. If, therefore, we see a cut, or a drastic cut as Mr. George observes, it is only a cut from this abnormal figure, and, as such, it cannot be regarded as a cut at all. The policy over here (for the past several years) seems to have been to multiply departments and offices, to create sinecures and to increase salaries, so much so that the people have begun to doubt whether the State exists for the service or the service for the State. Section 16, clause 4 (iv) of the Legislative Council Regulation, giving a sort of sacrosanct protection to the upper tendon of officialdom, betrays one thing at any rate—a want of confidence in the Council. As to the mentality of those—I would not make any observations. Coming then, we have to make provision for the expense of Rs. 194 lakhs from a total revenue of Rs. 180 lakhs. That is certainly trying to evolve something out of nothing, or something out of nearly nothing. The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

only retrenchment possible is under salaries and allowances. And as we have budgeted for a recurring expenditure, which we cannot depart from, of something like Rs. 194 lakhs, I do not know where we shall be, if we proceed at this extravagant rate. Under the circumstances, if we refer to the salaries of officers, it is in no disparaging spirit. We have the greatest regard for, and we appreciate very greatly, the brilliant services of the *personnel* of all the departments. We can understand that many of them are sacrificing themselves at the altar of public service. And we further feel that, if the civil service is curtailed, we lose an opening—almost the only opening—for a large number of students that are turned out by our schools, colleges and the University. Nevertheless, from the standpoint of the ordinary man, as a tax-payer, I cannot but observe that the tax-payer should not be treated, as Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai put it, like the goose that lays the golden eggs. People represent their difficulties expecting that Government would sympathise with them, at least as much as the Government is fostering the interests of the civil service. I pray that no further taxation be imposed upon us. We have reached the limit of taxation and, as our revenue cannot expand in the near future, the only possible course is the reductions of salaries, the reduction of departments and such further reductions in the civil service as may be compatible. It will not be right on our part to reduce places at once and turn out the holders bag and baggage; and I do not suggest any such course. If I refer to reduction of offices, I refer to it only to impress upon the House the necessity for retrenchment which, if not now, will have to be effected hereafter.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. George on his arduous labours in preparing this budget and his honest attempt to make it as luminous as possible under the present circumstances. Though I do not generally agree with his budgeting dispositions and robust optimism, I cannot but express my admiration for the splendid way in which he has tried to convert a huge deficit budget into a balanced one. It was a feat that could be performed only by men of uncommon optimism who will never be daunted by adversity. I for one am not so sanguine about the receipts and expenditure as forecasted by Mr. George; and I have grave misgivings that the budget, as at present prepared, will end in a huge deficit. This fear has been engendered in my mind by the financial history of the last two years, by the frustration of Government expectations, by inordinate increase in civil expenditure, and by my appraisement of the probable conditions of the next year. In the budget speech of the Dewan in 1096 he expected prosperous times, but he was discomfited in 1096 and in 1097. His examination of the situation was found to be based on an entirely wrong basis in 1096; and I believe the Financial Secretary has erred on the same side with his budget of 1098. The Dewan who expected that normal trade and seasonal conditions would prevail in 1096 had to confess his mistake in 1097. I hereunder extract a few sentences from his opening speech in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly in 1097:

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

"The year 1096 was not a bright one from the view-point of the financier. It was characterised by a tightness of the money market and a depression in trade and business activities which reacted detrimentally on the revenues of the State, not only directly in the smaller sales of timber, but indirectly also in the institution of suits, registration of documents and even the consumption of salt. The outlook for the current year is by no means more rosy and the expenditure of the year has already begun to show signs of outstripping its revenue".

This forecast has come true. There was a deficit of Rs. 1½ lakhs. Mr. George has clearly explained in his statement that, in 1097, according to the latest available information, the revenue is expected to decline by Rs. 7 lakhs and the expenditure by Rs. 3½ lakhs. The result is that our anticipated surplus has been more or less completely wiped out. This result itself depends upon the realisation of the budgeted revenue under Forests. The same economic depression and money stringency which affected Excise, Registration, Stamps, Land Revenue, etc., may in all probability continue. A budget prepared without taking these factors into account is liable to disappoint us. I believe that the Financial Secretary has overestimated the receipts and underestimated the expenditure. That the estimates of revenue and expenditure are very often wanting in accuracy can be easily understood by a comparison of two estimates with two actuals. I agree with him when he says that, as regards the future, it would be rash to expect any large or sudden increases in our normal resources; but I fail to expect with him that there will be at least a partial improvement in the coming year in the present depression of trade and monetary stringency.

In the light of these facts, I am inclined to believe that the budget under consideration will land us in a huge deficit and compel us to raise taxation. In view of the remark of the Financial Secretary that Government have made all possible cuts consistent with efficiency and, in view of the general tendency of departmental heads ever to demand further allotments and in view of the calculation of the average cost of sanctioned appointments by him, it is futile to hope for any decline of expenditure in the coming year. We are dealing with an adversity budget. Our expectations of revenue may be shattered; but our expectations of expenditure will be amply fulfilled.

Sir, I find it very difficult to be soothed by Mr. George's consoling remarks that there is nothing seriously grave or alarming in our financial position. His review of ten years itself gives ample room for despondency. The State's revenue rose from Rs. 138 lakhs to Rs. 195 lakhs, *i. e.*, by Rs. 57 lakhs or 41 per cent., and the expenditure from Rs. 135 lakhs to Rs. 196 lakhs, *i. e.*, by Rs. 61 lakhs or 45 per cent. The increase in expenditure is not in proportion to the normal growth of revenue. I find, from a reading of the figures, that the Travancore Government have not fixed a proportion of expenditure to the total revenue in various departments or adhered to the salutary maxim of finance that expenditure must be proportionate to the normal growth of revenue. I find also that the liabilities of the State are increasing year by year. When the Government realised surpluses in two or three years, they began to give more adequate and liberal allotments for expenditure in various departments. Thus the increase of permanent

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

expenditure based on a temporary inflation of revenue betokens lack of caution and statesmanship. The saddest part of the whole affair is that, in spite of those surpluses and the resultant growth of administrative expenditure, the moral and industrial advancement of the people has continued for the most part unattended to and that no advantage of the financial position has been taken to inaugurate comprehensive schemes of State action for improving the condition of the masses. Sir, it is most deplorable that an opportunity has been taken at this critical moment, when the revenue-giving departments are on the decline, to increase the permanent expenditure of the country by increased establishments and revised scales of pay. All experience proves that, wherever revision is needed either of strength or emolument, the heads of departments are only too ready to bring it forward. Nor are the members of the various services backward in urging their own claims. The Salaries Committee, the Efficiency Audit Officer and the Education Expenditure Committee might have recently experienced this.

In the opening speech of the Dewan, when he introduced the budget in 1096, he said:

"They (Government) feel for instance that they should do something to relieve the hard lot of the low-paid Government servants to whom relief has not yet been given, that the P. W. D. should be enabled to spend more on communications and urgent buildings, that the Departments of Industries and Agriculture should be further developed, and that certain services should be reorganised to promote efficiency, and they are determined to devote more money for these purposes, should they fortunately find themselves financially in a position to do so."

Now we are not financially in a better position. Yet Government, in the name of efficiency, has increased establishments and the salaries of high-paid officers, but has not relieved the hardship of the low-paid servants. The Department of Industries has suffered much and I request the members of this House to note that even the sanctioned amount was not expended in 1097. In 1098 the axe is severely applied to the P. W. D. We do not find that the salutary principle enunciated by the Dewan that in P. W. D. more attention should be paid to communications than to buildings is strictly followed.

I suspect that this budget is the harbinger of taxation. I most respectfully, but emphatically, request the Government to exhaust all resources of retrenchment before they draw upon the resources of taxation.

Owing to the deficit in 1096, there was an increase in the Anchal rates, in the process and copying fees, and in a nominal enhancement of the duty on tobacco. Market fees have been enhanced. The rates of tolls on roads and the license fees for boats have been raised. Any additional impost at this time which is admitted to be depressing will be marked with alarm by the public. Sir, I must be pardoned if I complain of the increase in charges. Efficiency is relative. We cannot copy the standards obtaining in the most expensive service under the sun in revising salaries and in increasing establishments. Now there is a hot pursuit of efficiency in every direction leading to increased establishments,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

creation of new appointments, and increase in the scales of pay and promotions, while commercial sources are not attended to. Sir, I plead for a relentless and rigorous retrenchment.

If there is any balance after retrenchment, it must be spent for industries and agriculture. In the Agricultural Department, only a sum of Rs. 12,000 is allotted for development.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI: Mr. President, we are all profoundly grateful to His Highness the Maha Raja for having been graciously pleased to inaugurate a new era in the administration of this country by the creation of an enlarged Legislative Council with enhanced powers and privileges. By this gracious act, the people are endowed with a larger and better share in the administration of the affairs of the State than they had before.

The budget estimate was to hand only a few days ago, and as I had no opportunity to look into the reference books necessary for a comparative study of the budget estimates of the past few years, I am sorry I am unable to offer detailed observations on many of the points touched upon in the able speech of Mr. George. I beg, nevertheless, to offer some remarks which have occurred to me as important.

Budgeting has become a fine art, and a layman uninitiated in the mysteries of financial balancing will find it difficult to make constructive suggestions that are likely to prove really useful. Even one who, like myself, had been dealing pretty freely with figures, feels puzzled, particularly because of the reclassification of the budget heads. That the reclassification has been done with commendable care and skill admits of little doubt, but that it admits of still further improvement is also equally clear. One desirable innovation would be to separate the various items of revenue into *permanent* and *fluctuating*, and thus provide for the permanent and essential services being paid for out of the former, and the temporary, occasional, or fluctuating ones out of the latter. One disadvantage of the present system by which all items of revenue are indiscriminately clubbed together is that additional allotments are likely to be sanctioned to the permanent or recurring items of expenditure, such, for instance, as increase of salaries, without reference to a corresponding increase in the fixed demand. The consequence would be that, when the non-recurring windfalls cease, Government would have to face a situation bordering on bankruptcy. It is most important, therefore, that the expenditure on the several departments should be governed by some fixed principles; in other words, the expenditure, in the absence of pressing reasons to the contrary, *should bear a constant ratio to, or progress ratably with,* the normal progression of the stable items of revenue.

Two points mentioned in the speech of Mr. George in introducing the budget arrested my attention. His statement that "we have no means of exercising any control over railway expenditure" shows that we are in a helpless condition in the matter, though

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the railway runs through our land and we have been financing the undertaking. It is to be hoped that, in view to obviate this difficulty, a State Railway Department would be organised as soon as possible.

The other point is the admission, made in paragraph 14, that he "succeeded in making both ends meet by postponing the payment of a part of the claims of the stationery suppliers", and by "not providing any reserve for meeting unforeseen expenditure". It is stated that, when the budget of 1097 was framed, it was found that, inclusive of the amount required for purchases during the year, a sum of about Rs. 11 lakhs was necessary to wipe off the arrears due to the stationery contractors. This surely requires looking into. So long as allotments were provided for the purchase of stationery in the budget of each year, it is not clear why either payments were postponed or purchases made in excess. The supply for each year should have been paid for out of the sanctioned provision. It is also seen that the stationery articles required for a few months in 1098 have been stocked. It is within every one's knowledge that the prices of paper and other articles of stationery have been abnormally high during recent years, and it is not known why the Stationery Department should have stocked articles purchased at such high prices when they were not actually required and when the prices were known to gradually fall. Provision should also have been made for a reserve with Government to meet unforeseen expenditure during 1098. The surplus estimated is only nominal and may not be attained.

There is at present considerable difference in the jurisdictions of district and controlling and inspecting officers in the P. W. D., Revenue, Excise, Police and other departments. It would be well, as far as possible, to make the departmental divisions co-extensive with one another. This will conduce to increase the efficiency of the administration and promote the convenience of the public; and it may also result in economy. It is not meant that the divisions should be absolutely identical—for I know there are conditions which may make this impossible—but it is desirable at least to make a conscious attempt towards approximation.

Provision is made this year under minor irrigation works to the extent of Rs. 84,400, and this is a feature of the administration which is certainly praiseworthy. Though the amount may be considered inadequate, still the fact that a new budget head has been opened is gratifying and is an index of the earnest solicitude on the part of the Government to minister to the agricultural wants of the people.

From an examination of the detailed P. W. D. budget, I find that there is great disparity of benefits in the various taluks, and that they bear no reasonable proportion to the revenue which they yield or to the real requirements of the people. I instance Shertallai which is one of the best revenue-yielding taluks of the State, but which unfortunately comes in only for a nominal share of the expenditure on communications, irrigation and other original works. Similar remarks would equally apply in the field of vernacular education, where we find that a sufficient number of Tamil schools, and of the requisite standard, have not been opened in the Tamil taluks of the State for the benefit of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. J. Curien.]

Tamil-speaking people, though they have to bear heavy taxation, as the bulk of them are agriculturists and traders. A fairer and more equitable distribution of benefits in these cases is highly desirable.

MR. C. J. CURIEN: Sir, almost all the members who have spoken on the budget have emphasised the need for retrenchment in expenditure. I am inclined to believe that they did so, not because they do not realise that retrenchment will entail loss of efficiency in the several departments, but because they entertain an apprehension that, if the revenue and expenditure as shown in the budget were to continue, there is every likelihood of our State running towards bankruptcy, and that it is to save such a situation that they have vehemently advocated retrenchment.

As Mr Krishna Aiyar has suggested, no tax can be imposed on the people at the present time with a view to increase the revenue, and the only source from which we can expect an increase is our customs. Unfortunately, the Interportal Convention with the British Government is a stumbling block to the enhancement of our customs revenue. If my information regarding this Convention which I obtained some years ago is correct, it was in 1865 that the Interportal Convention was entered into, by which we are to get Rs. 40,000 a year as duty on foreign articles imported by land. Since then, I may state that the volume of trade has increased a thousandfold. With such increase in trade we are entitled to get a corresponding increase in our customs revenue. Had it not been for the existence of the above Convention, our income from customs at the present time would have been not less than Rs. 10 lakhs. If we had been obtaining that much revenue from customs when the budget was prepared, I daresay that none of the speakers would have so vehemently urged for the application of the pruning knife to the expenditure. I would, therefore, request you, Sir, to apply to the British Government, which is the Paramount Power in whom we have implicit confidence of safeguarding our interests in every way, either to cancel the Interportal Convention—a Convention which with no time-limit will continue till the millennium comes—or to revise it with such conditions as will be favourable to us as far as possible.

One of the many ways and means suggested by some of the speakers for retrenchment of expenditure is the abolition of the post of Assistant Tahsildars. With regard to this, I have to state that, if my information is correct, Government at first issued their proceedings directing that, with a view to maintain land records, the taluk surveyors should be relieved of their work and deputed to fix theodolite stations. A month or so after the issue of the above order, another proceedings was passed appointing Assistant Tahsildars with instructions that they should, among their other duties, investigate encroachments on *porambokes*; but it does not seem that, in that order, any mention was made as to whether they should take up encroachment cases where theodolite stations were fixed or wherever they thought there were encroachments. On their arrival at their respective stations their idea of their first duty seemed to have been

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to take as many encroachment cases as they could. Imagining that there would be many encroachments on *porambokes* where there are roads and canals, the Assistant Tahsildar of Kottayam, with an army composed of as many accountants as there are *pakuthies* and double the number of peons, repaired first to the Kumarakam *pakuthi*—a place bordering the Vembanad lake, where almost every compound is surrounded on all sides by small channels and where there are many canals—and started the operation of measuring the banks of the canals where trees of eighty and more years old stand, without even caring to ascertain whether theodolite stones were fixed there. He declared that many portions of the banks were encroached upon and cases were taken against the owners which led to a great consternation among the people. The Land Revenue Commissioner, who was then the Dewan Peishkar of Kottayam, seems to have immediately repaired to the spot and after making a thorough investigation ordered to stop further proceedings. Likewise, the present Dewan Peishkar made a local inspection a few months ago of a compound against the owner of which an encroachment case was taken and he was heavily fined. The Peishkar declared it to be no encroachment and ordered the refund of the fine.

If such are the functions devolved on Assistant Tahsildars calculated to harass the public, the earlier these posts are done away with, the better for the people and the Government. Further, the existence of both an Assistant Tahsildar and a Deputy Tahsildar is a superfluity. As the Tahsildar is a circuiting officer, either an Assistant or a Deputy is a *desideratum*, to manage the office in his absence. I am, therefore, of opinion that the retention of either the Assistant Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar is desirable; but I would request that, whoever may be retained, he should be given strict injunctions that no encroachment cases should be taken before the *porambokes* are resurveyed.

MR. TRIVIKRAMAR VASUDEVAR: രാജ്യത്തിലെ വരവു ചിലവുകൾ ശരിയിട്ടന്നതിനു വളരെ പ്രയാസമുള്ള ഇക്കാലത്തു സക്കാർ ആഫീസുകളിലെ കണ്ടിൻജൻസി ചിലവുകൾ കഴിയുന്നതും ചുരുക്കണം. കണ്ടിൻജൻസി വകയ്ക്കു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ചോദിക്കുന്നതായ സംഖ്യ അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ അതിനു ശരിയായി ചിലവു ചെയ്യുവാൻ വഴിയുണ്ടാകും; അധികാരികൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതിൽ തുലോം ചെറുതായ സംഖ്യമാത്രം ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് അനുവദിച്ചാൽ അനുവദിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യകൊണ്ടു തന്നാണ്ടത്തെ ചിലവുകൾ കഴിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു നിർബന്ധമാണ്. അക്കൌണ്ടാഫീസിലെ പ്രിആഡിറ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ കർക്കടകമാസത്തിൽ ക്ലാഷുചെയ്തു പണം വാങ്ങുന്ന ബില്ലുകളുടെ ആകെയുള്ള തുകയും മറ്റു മാസങ്ങളിൽ ക്ലാഷുചെയ്യുന്ന ബില്ലുകളിലെ തുകയും കൂടി കണക്കെടുത്തുനോക്കിയാൽ കർക്കടകമാസത്തിൽ കണ്ടിൻജൻസി ചിലവു മറ്റു മാസങ്ങളെക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. മറ്റു മാസങ്ങളിൽ അത്യാവശ്യമായില്ലാത്ത ചിലവുകൾ കർക്കടകമാസത്തിൽ മാത്രം അത്യാവശ്യമായി തീരുന്നതിനു വഴിയില്ല. ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യ ചിലവായില്ലെങ്കിൽ ആയതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേയ്ക്കു ലാപ്സ് ചെയ്തുപോകുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും തന്നാണ്ടത്തെ ചിലവനുസരിച്ചായിരിക്കും അടുത്തകൊല്ലത്തെ അനുവാദം എന്നുള്ളതിനാലും ചിലവിന് ഓരോ മാർഗ്ഗം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചും ഒരിനത്തിൽ നിന്നു മറ്റിനങ്ങളിലേക്ക് മാറ്റിയും ബഡ്ജറനുവാദസംഖ്യ മുഴുവൻ ആണ്ടവസാനത്തിനു മുമ്പായിത്തന്നെ ചി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Trivikraman Vasudevar.]

ലവു ചെയ്യാനാണ് അധികാരികൾ ശ്രമിക്കുവാൻ ന്യായം. ബഡ്ജറിൽ അനുവദിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ ചുരുങ്ങിയിരിക്കുകയും യാതൊരു സംഗതിവശാലും ബഡ്ജറിന് അനുവാദത്തിലധികമായിഓരോ ഇനത്തിലും ചിലവു വരുവാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു നിർബന്ധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്താൽ ചിലവു കുറയുന്നതാണ്.

സമയച്ചുരുക്കത്താൽ, കണ്ടിൻജൻസി ഇനങ്ങളിൽ രണ്ടെണ്ണംമാത്രം എടുത്തുപറയുന്നു. അവയിൽ ഒന്നു "ആഫീസും പലവകയും" ചിലവുകൾ എന്ന ഇനമാകുന്നു. വോട്ടബിൾ തുകയുള്ള വകുപ്പുകൾ മാത്രം കണക്കു കൂട്ടി നോക്കിയതിൽ ക,൨൫,൦൦൦ രൂപയ്ക്കുമേൽ "ആഫീസും പലവകയും" ചിലവുകൾക്കായി ബഡ്ജറിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചുകാണുന്നു. കണ്ടിൻജൻസിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട മറ്റിനങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാം വേറെ സംഖ്യകൾ നിയോഗിച്ചുവച്ചിട്ടുള്ളസ്ഥിതിക്ക് 'പലവകയ്ക്കു' എന്നുപറഞ്ഞു ഇത്രവലിയസംഖ്യ അനുവദിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. "ആഫീസും പലവകയും" ചിലവുകൾക്കായി ഹജൂർക്കച്ചേരിക്ക് ൧,൫൦൦ രൂപായും അക്കൌണ്ടാഫീസിലേക്ക് ൭൦൦ രൂപായും കൺസർവേറ്റർ ആഫീസിന് ക,൧൦൦ രൂപയും ചീഫ് ഇൻജിനിയർ ആഫീസിലേയ്ക്കു ക,൩൫൦ രൂപായും എന്നിങ്ങനെ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവയെല്ലാം അത്യാവശ്യച്ചിലവ് എന്നുപറയുവാൻ വഴികാണുന്നില്ല. "ഫർണിച്ചർ" വാങ്ങുന്നതിനും അവയുടെ അറ്റകുറ്റത്തിനുമായി വോട്ടബിൾ വകുപ്പുകളിലെല്ലാം കൂടി ൩,൦൦൦ രൂപായ്ക്കു മേൽ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം പുതിയതായി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയ ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ ആഫീസിലേയ്ക്കു ൧൫൦൲, ഡവലപ്പുമെൻറ് ബോർഡിലേയ്ക്ക് ക൫൦൲, രൂപാ ഫർണിച്ചറിനായി അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടാവശ്യമെന്തു? ഹജൂരാഫീസിൽ ക്ലാർക്കുകളുടേയും സെക്രട്ടറിമാരുടേയും എണ്ണം കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അവിടെ അതിനായി ൨,൫൦൦ രൂപാ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്തിന്? ഫർണിച്ചർ വകയ്ക്കു ഹൈക്കോർട്ടിൽ ൯൦൲, അക്കൌണ്ടാഫീസിൽ ൪൦൲, രാജകീയകാളേജിൽ ക,൦൦൦൲, ഗവൺമെൻറ് കാളേജ്, ഹൈസ്കൂൾ, സ്ത്രീനാർമൽസ്കൂൾ, ഇവ മൂന്നിലും കൂടി ക,൫൦൦൲, രൂപാ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്തിന്? ടി ആഫീസുകളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഫർണിച്ചർ ഒന്നും ഇല്ലയോ? അറ്റകുറ്റം തീർപ്പാൻമാത്രം ഇത്രയും ചിലവുണ്ടോ? ട്രെയിനിങ്ങ് കാളേജിലേയ്ക്ക് ഫർണിച്ചർവകയ്ക്കു ക൦,൦൦൦ രൂപ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അവിടെ പുതുതായി തീരുന്ന കെട്ടിടത്തിലിടേണ്ടതായ സാമാനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ചിലവും ഇതിൽഉൾപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കാം. മാഡൽസ്കൂളിൽ ക്ലാസുകളിൽ ഇട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന മാതിരിയിൽ ൪൦൲, ൯൦൲, രൂപാവിലയുള്ള ഡെസ്ക്കുകൾ സ്കൂൾഉപയോഗത്തിനു ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നുള്ളതു സംശയമാണ്. മാഡൽസ്കൂളിലേ ടി ഡെസ്ക്കുകൾ കാരണം ഓരോ ക്ലാസിലും ൨൫ കുട്ടികൾക്കു മേൽ ഇരിക്കുവാൻ തരമില്ല. കൂടുതൽ കുട്ടികൾ ഇരിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ ഈ വിലപിടിച്ച ഡെസ്ക്കുകൾ മാറേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. പുതിയ കെട്ടിടത്തിലേക്കുള്ള സാമാനങ്ങൾക്കു അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ കുറഞ്ഞിരുന്നാൽ അത്യാവശ്യമായ മാതിരിയിൽ സാമാനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്.

മേല്പറഞ്ഞ രണ്ട് ഇനങ്ങളിൽമാത്രം ഒന്നുപകുതി കുറച്ചാൽ ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തിലധികം രൂപാ വേറെ പൊതുക്കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ഉപയോഗിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ കണ്ടിൻജൻസിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട മറ്റ് ഇനങ്ങളും നിഷ്കർഷയായി പരിശോധിച്ചു കുറവുചെയ്താൽ ഗണ്യമായ സംഖ്യകൾ കിട്ടുന്നതാണ്.

ബഡ്ജറിൽ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മറ്റു ചില ഇനം ചിലവുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഒന്നു രണ്ടുവാക്കു കുറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ ആഫീസിലുള്ള മോട്ടാർ കാറിന്റെ നടത്തിപ്പിനായി ൨,൫൦൦ രൂപായും, പുതിയ ഒരു കാർ വാങ്ങുന്നതിലേക്കായി ൪,൫൦൦ രൂപായും, നിശ്ചയിച്ചു കാണുന്നു. ൨,൫൦൦ രൂപായിൽ ഡ്രൈവരുടെ ശമ്പളം ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല. നടത്തിപ്പിനായി വച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ചിലവുതന്നെ ഒരു കാറിന്റെ വിലയ്ക്കു സമീപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. കൊല്ലംതോറും ൨,൫൦൦ രൂപാ ചിലവുചെയ്യുവാൻ സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്ന കാർ ഉപയോ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഗിപ്പാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥിതിയിൽ ആയിരിപ്പാൻ തരമില്ലാ. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ൪,൫൦൦ രൂപാ കൊടുത്ത് ഒരു പുതിയകാർ വാങ്ങേണ്ട ആവശ്യം കാണുന്നില്ല.

തിരുവിതാംകൂർ പോറൻറ ആഫീസിൽ പോറൻറിനു വരുന്ന അപേക്ഷകരുടെ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ വളരെ കുറവായിരിക്കുന്നസ്ഥിതിക്ക് അതു സംബന്ധമായ ജോലിക്ക് ഒരു ക്ലർക്കിനെ ൧൫൦ ടൈപ്പിസ്റ്റിനെ ൧൦൦ രൂപാവീതം അലവൻസും ഒരു പ്യൂണിനെ ൭ രൂപവീതം ശമ്പളവും ആവശ്യമില്ല. പോറൻറ വകയിൽ ൯ ലെ റിവൈസ്ഡ് എസ്റ്റിമേറു അനുസരിച്ചു ൫൦൦ രൂപയെ വരവുള്ളൂ ൫൦൦ രൂപ ചിലവുമുണ്ട്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL: Sir, I feel bound to express here the sincere gratitude of the general public on the momentous reform which will always be associated with the glorious name of His Gracious Highness the Maha Raja and your distinguished self. This reform, enabling the admission in the Revenue Department of all the subjects of His Highness, without distinction of caste or creed, will stand out as the most epoch-making reform of this century in the State of Travancore. It is hoped that a liberal percentage of appointments in the Revenue Department will be given to those to whom it was till now a forbidden fruit.

Sir, since the experience I have in this field is but very little, I thought that it would be safe to make my speech as brief as possible and that I should not try now to imitate the learned and experienced members of this Council. I shall but refer to a few points which, I think, deserve some consideration.

I congratulate Mr. George on the possible clearness and completeness with which he has prepared the budget for this year. Even a cursory perusal of the budget would show that the condition of the finances of our State is not after all encouraging. Unless, as has been said, Government exercise strict economy in expenditure and effect all reasonable retrenchments, the condition of the finances would never improve. I am aware, Sir, of the difficulties the Government would experience, at present, in effecting all possible retrenchments, and I am also aware that, under the present circumstances, retrenchment could only be effected gradually and in course of time. But, Sir, whenever and wherever retrenchment is possible, it must be effected then and there. I request the Government most earnestly not to contemplate improving the revenue by any fresh taxation. People are already burdened with taxes at the possible maximum rates. Since my friends have already dealt with this point at length, anything that I say now would only be superfluous and tiresome.

The Government, it would appear, have bestowed much care and thought in effecting the desired retrenchments. And yet, in some cases, there is sufficient cause for general dissatisfaction. It is noticeable that, while in the case of the Revenue, the Sanitary and the Public Works Departments, and in the case even of the Huzur Secretariat, some appreciable retrenchment was effected, Government did not find their way to accept the recommendations of the Salaries Committee in respect of certain other departments. The Distillery Circle at Nagercoil ap-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Paul V. Daniel.]

pears to me as superfluous. A competent Inspector will be able to manage the business quite satisfactorily and the appointment of a separate Assistant Commissioner is not necessary. The Assistant Commissioner, Nagercoil Circle, will be able to supervise the distillery work in addition to his other duties. The Alleppey Circle also may with advantage be abolished, since there is in that place a separate Port Officer of status and standing. I leave it to my friend, Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman, to justify the necessity for the Piravam Circle. It also strikes me, Sir, that there is no necessity for an Assistant Commissioner and a Manager in the office of the Excise Commissioner. I find from the budget that, in the head offices of similar big departments, provision has not been made for two such higher officers. In these cases retrenchment can be effected without impairing efficiency.

Coming to the Police Department, one feels dissatisfied, Sir, with the system of district administration to be introduced from 1098 M. E. The object of Government in doing away with the system of circle administration was to avoid the so-called double strata and the delay in the speedy despatch of general work. But now, Sir, the Assistant Superintendents have been introduced practically in the place of the old Circle Inspectors, but with a different name. Let Government have either the District Superintendents or the Assistant Superintendents, but not both.

I have to mention here one circumstance which strikes me, Sir, as somewhat anomalous. The pay of a Tahsildar according to the old scale was fixed at Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per month. For that pay he was usually discharging the duties of a Devaswom Officer, a Magistrate and a Revenue Tahsildar. Now, for the mere post of a Revenue Tahsildar the pay has been fixed at Rs. 175 to Rs. 200 per month, while the pay of a Stationary Magistrate is only Rs. 125. I submit, Sir, that the pay for an appointment must be in proportion to the work and the responsibilies attached to it and not for the mere tradition of it. The Tovala Tahsildar, for instance, was till now the Revenue Tahsildar and Magistrate of the taluk with about 300 cases on his annual file, and the Devaswom Officer as well, with a good number of minor and major Devaswoms under him. For all this, he was paid only Rs. 175 per month. Hereafter, a Group Officer will take up the Devaswoms and a Magistrate will take up the criminal work. For the revenue work alone, the Government intends paying him Rs. 175 per month. The case of the Shencottah taluk where the Tahsildar was also Munsiff-Magistrate is a still more forcible illustration of my contention. I see no reason why a Magistrate should be paid only Rs. 125 per month, while a mere Revenue Tahsildar is to get Rs. 175 to Rs. 200. I have absolutely no complaint against the officers who are at present Tahsildars receiving the pay specified above. If the Government want to give them this pay, as they do certainly deserve, it may be given them as personal pay. I leave it to the Government to consider the question of the salary and pay of the officers for the work they have to turn out and the responsibilities they have to shoulder.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I should like to put forward here a proposal which the members of the bar strongly urge and which has been duly supported by the Press in the country. The principle of recruitment from the bar to judicial offices is, to some extent, recognised by the Government in the case of appointments of Munsiffs and Judges and it must be followed in the appointments of Magistrates as well. In the interest of an efficient judicial service I suggest that a fair percentage of the appointments of Judges, Munsiffs and Magistrates should be reserved for the bar.

I have now to make a prayer, though with some hesitation, considering the financial condition of our State. The grant proposed to be given to the Municipality at Nagercoil is not sufficient. Nagercoil is the second largest town in Travancore and several important improvements have to be made in it. It continues to grow steadily in the number of its citizens and is being extended on all sides. We find it not expedient to impose, at once, all the taxes. The Municipality is actually in need of some substantial help from the Government. I would, therefore, request the Government to increase the grant proposed to be given to the Municipality at Nagercoil.

I thank the Government for the provision made in the budget for the reconnaissance survey of the railway line from Trivandrum to Nagercoil. The Government are aware of the importance of this railway line, and it is our earnest hope that it would become an accomplished fact in the near future.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that there is no other member among the non-officials who wishes to speak?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Some of us wish to speak, but are not ready to-day. If the President would allow us, we should like to speak tomorrow.

PRESIDENT: I think that the speeches of the non-official members should be finished by lunch-time tomorrow, so that the official members may have some time to make their replies. If the non-official gentlemen think that their speeches would be over before lunch-time tomorrow, I have no objection to adjourn the House now.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I am prepared to accept that suggestion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: Personally, I would also accept it

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: I also agree.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Very few members remain to speak. We may come to an agreement to close our speeches before lunch tomorrow.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: We might agree to such an understanding

PRESIDENT: Subject to that understanding, we adjourn now.

The House then adjourned at 4-20 P. M., to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on Tuesday, the 25th July, 1922.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly